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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 14-15 July 2014
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Organization of the World Conference

Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Note by the secretariat**

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/211 of 20 December 2013, decided to hold the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

2. The draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference are contained in the annex to the present note. They have been prepared on the basis of the provisional rules of procedure of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/2), the provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.216/2) and the draft provisional rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.223/PC/3*).

* Reissued for technical reasons on 4 July 2014.
** This document was submitted late due to the need for internal consultations.

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Annex

Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

I. Representation and credentials

Rule 1
Composition of delegations

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference and that of the European Union shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 2
Alternates and advisers

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Rule 3
Submission of credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of the European Union, by the President of the European Commission.

Rule 4
Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-ninth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Rule 5
Provisional participation in the Conference

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. Officers

Rule 6
Elections

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 10 Vice-Presidents[1], one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General, and an ex officio Vice-President from the host country. The Conference may also elect a Chair of a Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the Bureau. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Rule 7
General powers of the President

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his/her functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Rule 8
Acting President

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he/she shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his/her place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 9
Replacement of the President

If the President is unable to perform his/her functions, a new President shall be elected.

Rule 10
Voting rights of the President

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his/her delegation to vote in his/her place.

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[1] Two from each of the following groups: African States; Asian States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western Europe and Others Group.

III. Bureau

Rule 11
Composition

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and a Chair of the Main Committee shall constitute the Bureau. The President, or in his/her absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him/her, shall serve as Chairperson of the Bureau. The Chair of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the Bureau.

Rule 12
Substitute members

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the Bureau, he/she may designate a member of his/her delegation to sit and vote in the Bureau. In case of absence, a Chair of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chair of that Committee as his/her substitute. When serving on the Bureau, a Vice-Chair of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he or she is a member of the same delegation as another member of the Bureau.

Rule 13
Functions

The Bureau shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. Secretariat of the Conference

Rule 14
Duties of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or his designated representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place at these meetings.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or his designated representative shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Rule 15
Duties of the secretariat

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Provide simultaneous interpretation of speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Rule 16
Statements by the secretariat

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, or any member of the secretariat designated for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. Opening of the Conference

Rule 17
Temporary President

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, any member of the secretariat designated by him for that purpose, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Rule 18
Decisions concerning organization

The Conference shall at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. Conduct of business

Rule 19
Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Rule 20
Speeches

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him/her to order without delay.

Rule 21
Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 22
Precedence

The Chair or Rapporteur of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Rule 23
Closing of the list of speakers

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Rule 24
Right of reply

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference or of the European Union who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. The representatives of a State or of the European Union may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Rule 25
Adjournment of debate

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 26
Closure of debate

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his/her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 27
Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Subject to rule 38, a representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 28
Order of motions

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Rule 29
Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or his designated representative, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though these amendments have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Rule 30
Withdrawal of proposals and motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 31
Decisions on competence

Subject to rule 28, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Rule 32
Reconsideration of proposals

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. Decision-making

Rule 33
General agreement

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement.

Rule 34
Voting rights

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Rule 35
Majority required

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference and its subsidiary organs shall be taken in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and its committees, respectively.

2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 36
Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Rule 37
Method of voting

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Rule 38
Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Rule 39
Explanation of vote

Representatives may make brief statements, consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Rule 40
Division of proposals

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 41
Amendments

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be regarded as including amendments.

Rule 42
Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Rule 43
Order of voting on proposals

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be regarded as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VIII. Subsidiary bodies

Rule 46
Main Committee

The Conference may establish a Main Committee as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Rule 47
Representation on the Main Committee

Each State participating in the Conference and the European Union may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the committee in question, subject to the approval of that committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

Rule 50
Officers

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Rule 51
Quorum

1. The Chair of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the Bureau or the Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum provided that they are representatives of participating States.

Rule 52
Officers, conduct of business and voting

The rules contained in chapters II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairpersons of the Bureau and the Credentials Committees and the Chairpersons of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote, provided that they are representatives of participating States;

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. Languages and records

Rule 53
Languages of the Conference

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Rule 54
Interpretation

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Rule 55
Languages of official documents

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Rule 56
Sound recordings of meetings

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of any Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any of the other meetings of the Conference.

X. Public and private meetings

General principles

Rule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the Plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the Plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the Bureau, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Rule 59
Communiqués on private meetings

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General or his designated representative.

XI. Other participants and observers

Rule 60
Intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Representatives designated by intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Rule 61
Representatives of the specialized agencies and related organizations[2]

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies and related organizations may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 62
Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Save where otherwise specifically provided with respect to the European Union in these rules of procedure representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 63
Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

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[2] For the purpose of these rules, the term "related organizations" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Criminal Court, the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and the World Trade Organization.

Rule 64
Representatives of non-governmental organizations[3]3

1. Non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence. If the number of requests to speak is too large, the nongovernmental organizations shall be requested to form themselves into constituencies, such constituencies to speak through spokespersons.

Rule 65
Associate members of regional commissions[4]

Representatives designated by the associate members of regional commissions listed in the footnote may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Rule 66
Written statements

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 65 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence. Copies of written statements shall not be made by the secretariat and the written statements shall not be issued as official documents of the Conference."

XII. Suspension and amendment of the rules of procedure

Rule 67
Method of suspension

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

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[3] It is recalled that paragraph 23.3 of Agenda 21 provides that "any policies, definitions or rules affecting access to and participation by non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations institutions or agencies associated with the implementation of Agenda 21 must apply equally to all major groups". Agenda 21 defines major groups as comprising women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers. Therefore, based on Agenda 21, rule 64 shall apply equally to non-governmental organizations and other major groups

[4] American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Guam, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands, and United States Virgin Islands.

Rule 68
Method of amendment

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the Bureau has reported on the proposed amendment.

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Organization of the World Conference

Progress on organization of the World Conference

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In 2012, the General Assembly, through resolution 67/209, decided to convene the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to review implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. In December 2013, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/211 in which it decided that the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction would be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. The General Assembly decided that the World Conference would result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document with the following objectives:

(a) To complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(b) To consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations as well as relevant regional agreements under the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(c) To adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(d) To identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(e) To determine modalities for periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

2. The secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction was requested to serve as the secretariat of the Conference, to facilitate the development of a post-2015

framework for disaster risk reduction and to coordinate the preparatory activities in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

II. Continuity from the First and Second World Conference to the Third World Conference

3. Upon the conclusion of the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction from 1990 to 1999, the secretariat published "Living with Risk – A Global Review of Disaster Reduction Initiatives" (2004). It was among the documents used for the ten-year review of the implementation of the 1994 Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action agreed at the First World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which also contributed to the development of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters at the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005.

4. The Hyogo Framework for Action, as adopted by the Second World Conference, has one strategic objective, three strategic goals and five priorities for actions.[1] A mid-term review was undertaken from 2010 to 2011 which stressed the need to step-up the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning, climate change adaptation, and environmental and humanitarian planning; the need to improve governance for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the national and international level; the need to assess the effectiveness of National Platforms in informing and supporting executive level of decision making; that international, national and local level accountability mechanisms should be encouraged and developed for measuring progress; that targets be encouraged to accelerate Hyogo Framework for Action implementation through 2015; that common tools and guidance be further developed and translated in local languages; that standards be encouraged at regional and national levels to ensure quality of disaster risk reduction services delivered; and that a joint action plan to support implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at country and local levels be developed to connect the work of different actors to achieve a higher level of coherence and stronger impact of available resources.

5. The work and cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action has generated a significant body of practice and experience from which some clear principles are emerging. There is now a better understanding that development cannot be sustainable if the disaster risk reduction approach is not fully integrated into development planning and investments, in both the public and private sectors. Every year, thousands of schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure, including roads, transportation routes, electrical and power facilities and communications networks, are damaged or destroyed,

[1] Hyogo Framework for Action strategic objective: The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries. Hyogo Framework for Action strategic goals: The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning; Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards; and The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes. Hyogo Framework for Action five priorities of action: 1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; 2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; 3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; 4. Reduce the underlying risk factors; and 5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

thus severely affecting the economy and well-being of communities, cities and countries. Development investment that does not consider disaster risk will lead to the accumulation of more risk. As stated in the 2013 Global Assessment Report, the world can expect losses from disasters to double by 2030 if development investments fail to account for, and address, disaster risk.

6. As discussions on a post-2015 development agenda, a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and a global agreement on climate change evolve, ensuring coherence and complementarity among the agendas is paramount. Anchoring disaster risk reduction within a new development framework, which is supported and elaborated through a successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action, will be critical for sustainable development. The overall aim is to reduce the accumulation of risk and ensure that strong action is taken to address the underlying causes of risk that potentially undermine progress on all the agendas.

7. As noted in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/67/335), the work taking place between 2012 and 2014 for the development of a post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework and the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction sets the stage for transforming such accumulated experience and knowledge into new risk management paradigms.

II. Launch of the preparatory process

Coordinating efforts with global partners

8. Consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction began in March 2012 involving stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. To date, around 150 consultations with stakeholders on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction have taken place at local, national, regional and global levels.

9. The fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in May 2013, brought together the largest and most diverse range of stakeholders to date, signaling the growing interest in and action on disaster risk reduction. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly welcomed the deliberations and results of the fourth session of the Global Platform, recognizing it as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction. The Global Platform provided substantive inputs into the development of a successor framework to the Hyogo Framework for Action and called for governments to take a strong lead to ensure that disaster risk reduction is overtly recognized in the post-2015 development agenda.

10. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly recognized the importance of contributions and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Hyogo Framework for Action, local governments representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations. Provisions are being made for their participation at the Conference and its preparatory process.

11. Also at its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly stressed the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process in order to promote broad participation in the Third World Conference and in that regard looked forward to upcoming regional platforms and meetings scheduled in 2014. These are:

(a) Fifth African Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 to 16 May, Abuja, Nigeria;

(b) Fourth Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction for the Americas, 27 to 29 May, Guayaquil, Ecuador;

(c) Pacific Platform, 2 to 4 June, Suva, Fiji;

(d) Arab States Regional Platform, 10 to 12 June, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt;

(e) Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, 23 to 26 June 2014, Bangkok, Thailand;

(f) Europe Ministerial Conference, 8 July, Milan, Italy.

12. Outcomes of regional platforms and meetings will be transmitted to the first session of the Preparatory Committee to inform its discussion on considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.[2]

The intergovernmental process towards the Third World Conference

13. Through resolution 68/211, the General Assembly decided to establish an Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to review the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, approve the programme of work of the Conference and propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference. It was further decided to establish a Bureau for the Preparatory Committee consisting of two members of each regional group and that Japan would serve as an ex officio member.

14. By March 2014, regional groups had nominated the following candidates to the Bureau: Md. Abdul Hannan (Bangladesh), Kateřina Sequensová (Czech Republic), María del Pilar Cornejo (Ecuador), Walid Abdelnasser (Egypt), Päivi Kairamo (Finland), Wayne McCook (Jamaica), Andrey A. Nikiforov (Russian Federation), Riek Puok Riek (South Sudan), Toni Frisch (Switzerland) and Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand). Takashi Okada (Japan) was nominated as ex officio member.

15. Guided by the Bureau, the Preparatory Committee will hold two meetings of two days each, from 14 to 15 July 2014 and 17 to 18 November 2014. The General Assembly has also provided for a meeting in Sendai to be decided by the Preparatory Committee if necessary.

Development of a draft programme

16. A draft programme of work of the World Conference was developed by the Conference secretariat in close coordination with the host country and shared with Bureau members-designate (see Annex 1).

17. The Conference's intergovernmental segment is expected to have an opening ceremony, high-level segment, dialogue with major groups, plenary meetings and official statements. Ministerial round tables may be held in parallel to the plenary meetings. The Conference's multistakeholder segment will include thematic/Hyogo Framework for Action sessions and side events. The Conference will also have a public forum and social events,

[2] In addition, a regional consultation meeting was held in Central Asia and the South Caucasus from 1 to 2 April, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. A report of the regional consultation meeting will be available on the World Conference website.

which will include a film festival, architecture exhibit, receptions and ceremonies. Public events will be held in venues outside the restricted zone, thus enabling members of the public to enter freely. The Government of Japan and the local government of Sendai will also hold receptions in addition to Conference's public receptions and ceremonies.

Organizational matters

18. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/209, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction was requested to serve as Conference secretariat. A senior steering group was established within the Conference secretariat to oversee organization and preparations for the World Conference. A working-level team was established to support the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference and to coordinate logistical arrangements and events management for the World Conference with the host country.

19. A budget was developed with the host country. A funding proposal was developed and launched by the Conference secretariat in April 2014. The Government of Switzerland has committed resources for the organization of two meetings of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva. The Government of Japan has committed resources for host-related costs for the World Conference.

20. A United Nations planning mission involving the Conference secretariat and members of the United Nations conference services and security services was undertaken from 10 to 14 March 2014 in Tokyo and Sendai. The mission included visits to facilities to assess space availability and plan for allocation of rooms for official plenaries, multi-stakeholder discussions and public and social events. The allocation of responsibility for security arrangements was clarified between the Government of Japan and the United Nations.

21. A note verbale was sent to States members through their New York-based Permanent Missions and Observer Missions on 6 April 2014 with a copy to Geneva-based Permanent Missions, where appropriate. A copy was also sent to intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies maintaining permanent offices at United Nations headquarters. A separate note verbale was sent to United Nations Executive Heads of specialized agencies on 3 April 2014 and letters of invitation to United Nations special funds and programmes on 8 April 2014.

22. An online accreditation and registration system for non-governmental organizations and other major groups wishing to participate as observers at the World Conference and its Preparatory Committee meetings was launched on 23 April 2014 (http://www.wcdrr.org/majorgroups).

23. Arrangements are being made for financial support to delegates from least developed countries and small island developing States.

24. Arrangements were made with the United Nations Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management regarding documentation and interpretation. A digital strategy is under development to promote the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction as a paper-smart conference.

25. A World Conference website was launched to relay information to prospective participants and members of the media (www.wcdrr.org). The date of the World Conference and meetings of its Preparatory Committee was announced in a message circulated to the secretariat's contact list of 40,000 stakeholders whose work is relevant to the subject of the World Conference and posted on the World Conference website.

26. Plans are in place to promote the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at related events including the International Conference on Small Island Developing States (September 2014, Appia, Samoa), the Secreraty-General's Climate Summit (September 2014, New York), the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (November 2014, Nagoya, Japan) and meetings related to the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. The International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October 2014 wilt be organized to promote the World Conference.

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction[i]

March 14-18, 2015, Sendai[ii], Japan (Provisional draft)

	Friday Mar. 13		Saturday Mar. 14				Sunday Mar. 15		Monday Mar. 16		Tuesday Mar. 17		Wednesday Mar. 18	
	AM	PM	AM		PM		AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	
Inter-Governmental Segment	**Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (as necessary)[iii]**		**Opening**	**Plenary** Organizational matters	**High Level Forum[iv]**	**Plenary Official Statements**							**Adoption of a Post-2015 Framework for DRR, Declaration and Commitments[v]**	**Closing**
						Ministerial Roundtables / **Dialogue with Major Groups / Stakeholders**								
Multi-stakeholder Segment	**Informal Preparatory & Stakeholders Meetings**					**Thematic/HFA Sessions**								
						Official Side Events								
Public Forum			**Symposium, Fora, Public Events etc.** *(Diverse locations: Tohoku University, Sendai Civic Auditorium, Sendai Prefectural Auditorium, Mediatech Sendai, Yume Messe)*											
			Film Festival, tbc											
			Exhibitions, including Architect Exhibition, tbc											
Social Events *Welcome Receptions, Award Ceremonies, Study Tour and Excursions*						**Reception by Host Country**			**Reception by Host City**		**Risk Award Ceremony**		**Sasakawa Award Ceremony**	
					Study Tour									**Study Tour Excursion**

[i] OP 10 of GA Resolution A/RES/67/209
[ii] OP 10 of A/RES/68/211
[iii] OP 13 of A/RES/68/211
[iv] High-level segment identified in OP 11 of A/RES/68/211
[v] OP10 of A/RES/67/209, OP 12 of A/RES/68/211

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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 14-15 July 2014
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Organization of the World Conference

Progress on organization of the World Conference

Note by the secretariat

Corrigendum

1. Page 3

Chapter II *should be renumbered* III.

Applicable to English only.

2. Paragraph 17

For the existing text *substitute*

17. The Conference's intergovernmental segment is expected to have an opening ceremony, high-level segment, dialogue with major groups, plenary meetings and official statements. Ministerial round tables may be held in parallel to the plenary meetings. The Conference's multistakeholder segment will include thematic/Hyogo Framework for Action sessions, study tours and side events to be held in Sendai and other municipalities affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Conference will also have a public forum and social events, which will include a film festival, architecture exhibit, receptions and ceremonies. Public events will be held in venues outside the restricted zone, thus enabling members of the public to enter freely.

3. Paragraph 26, 3rd line

For Appia *read* Apia

Applicable to English only.

GE.14-04480 (E)

1404480

Please recycle

4. Timetable

Replace timetable with the timetable below

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction[i]

March 14-18, 2015, Sendai[ii], Japan (Provisional draft)

	Friday Mar. 13		Saturday Mar. 14			Sunday Mar. 15		Monday Mar. 16		Tuesday Mar. 17		Wednesday Mar. 18	
	AM	PM	AM		PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	
Inter-Governmental Segment	**Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (as necessary)[iii]**		**Opening**	**Plenary** Organizational matters	**High Level Forum[iv]**	**Plenary Official Statements**						**Adoption of a Post-2015 Framework for DRR, Declaration and Commitments[v]**	**Closing**
						Ministerial Roundtables							
							Stakeholders	**Dialogue with Major Groups**					
Multi-stakeholder Segment	**Informal Preparatory & Stake-holders Meetings**					**Thematic/HFA Sessions**							
						Official Side Events							
Study Tour					**Study Tour**								**Study Tour**
Public Forum			**Symposium, Fora, Public Events etc.** *(Diverse locations: Tohoku University, Sendai Civic Auditorium, Sendai Prefectural Auditorium, Sendai Mediatheque, Yume Messe)*										
			Film Festival, tbc										
			Exhibitions, including Architect Exhibition, tbc										
Social Events *Welcome Receptions, Award Ceremonies, Study Tour and Excursions*						**Reception by Host Country**			**Reception by Host City**		**Risk Award Ceremony**		**Sasakawa Award Ceremony**

[i] OP 10 of GA Resolution A/RES67/209
[ii] OP 10 of A/RES/68/211
[iii] OP 13 of A/RES/68/211
[iv] High-level segment identified in OP 11 of A/RES/68/211
[v] OP10 of A/RES/67/209, OP 12 of A/RES/68/211

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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 14-15 July 2014
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Compilation report on consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

The compilation report, which is issued pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/199, 67/209 and 68/211, presents information and an overview of the consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The purpose is to inform the preparatory process of stakeholders views in the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to be considered at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan 14-18 March 2015.

The compilation report covers the consultations with governments and non-government organizations, regional intergovernmental organizations, United Nations and international organizations and groups (including communities, business and industry and others) during the period from March 2012 through to May 2014. The report includes progress and lessons of each of the priorities for action of the existing Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters as well as new perspectives on risk and its reduction.

Stakeholders are calling for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to build on the Hyogo Framework for Action with renewed emphasis on key existing components as well as to focus on new areas – for example the economic case, increased accountability, and on more local level efforts. Through the views expressed in the consultations and here compiled, a vision, scope, approaches and principles to risk reduction for the next 20 to 30 years emerges.

* This document was submitted late due to the need to include as much information from consultations as possible.

GE.14-03325 (E)

1403325

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I. Introduction

1. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters guides the work on disaster risk reduction. The Hyogo Framework for Action was itself a product of several years of work stemming from the International Framework for Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction of 1989, and further articulated by both the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action of 1994 and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of 1999. These processes represent the broader reference work for disaster risk reduction and resilience.

2. At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005, countries adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action, and later in 2005 the General Assembly endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action through resolution 60/195. The Hyogo Framework for Action responds to the need for a comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to identifying and implementing disaster risk reduction measures.

3. In December 2011, the General Assembly, through resolution 66/199, requested the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) to facilitate the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and welcomed the offer made by the Government of Japan to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. In December 2012, the General Assembly, through resolution 67/209, encouraged all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the consultation process for the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. This included sharing lessons on managing disaster risk through, for example, the convening of national multi-stakeholder consultations and participation in regional platforms.

4. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, officially launched the consultations in March 2012. At the same time, the background paper "Towards the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" was released outlining the composition of consultations including online and local, national, regional and global events.

5. In the first year leading up to the fourth session of the Global Platform in May 2013, the consultations focused on general substantive issues for a successor framework, including emerging trends, challenges and solutions. The "Synthesis Report: Consultations on a Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction," presented at the Global Platform in May 2013, summarized these early rounds of views expressed. The Global Platform itself was the key global meeting in the consultations. The document "Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Report from 2013 Global Platform Consultations" captured stakeholder opinions at the consultation meetings and events at the 2013 Global Platform.

6. From June 2013 onwards the consultations focused on the possible elements of a post-2015 framework. The General Assembly through resolution 68/211 in December 2013 outlined the modalities for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its expected outcomes. The document "Proposed Elements for Consideration in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction," released in December 2013 provided the main substance for regional platforms and other consultations for the first half of 2014 prior to meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference scheduled for 14-15 July and 17-18 November 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

7. The compilation report on the consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction provides an overview over the period from March 2012 to May 2014. The consultations together with countries' reports through the Hyogo Framework for Action monitor, the findings of the biennial Global Assessment Reports on Disaster Risk Reduction of 2009, 2011 and 2013, and the relevant deliberations of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as a growing literature and practice on disaster risk and resilience, also provided a wealth of knowledge and guidance for the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

8. The compilation report has two main substantive parts. One focuses on the results of the consultations under each of the five existing Hyogo Framework for Action priorities for action. These views are based both on lessons learned in implementation, which validate the continued relevance and value of the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as constraints which could be strengthened in a successor framework. The other substantive part focuses on new areas and perspectives on risk and its reduction.

II. Results of Consultations by Priorities for Action of the Hyogo Framework for Action

A. Hyogo Framework for Action Priority for Action 1 – Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

9. Stakeholders readily identified that the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action Priority for Action 1 remained incomplete and viewed it as a work in progress. A number of areas were identified for further progress ranging from more support for local level, strengthening national and regional coordination, resourcing, and a more inclusive approach.

Support for the local level: decentralization and community participation

10. The great majority of stakeholders reiterated that the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction should focus on local governments and actors as primary implementers. Stakeholders requested a simple post-2015 framework that reflects the realities of local decision makers and citizens. Local governments, mayors and community organizations are at the frontline of disasters and knowledge of resilience building.[1] To promote government action, the post-2015 framework should emphasize the generation of social demand for disaster risk reduction at the local level by civil society.[2] Participation, monitoring and implementation are best undertaken at the local level and in this way effective decentralization with strong governance can support disaster risk reduction efforts.[3]

11. Many stakeholders called for effort to clearly demarcate the responsibilities at the central, provincial, district or municipal levels and to strengthen the processes of decentralization of responsibilities and resources to local government through improved regulation and mechanisms for accessing resources.[4] A post-2015 framework should also support strengthening and enhancing of linkages between national and local governments, including the alignment of national policies with local needs, as decentralization facilitates reaching at-risk populations.

Promote community participation

12. Community participation is fundamental to successfully align national policies with local disaster risk reduction needs.[5] Communities regard three main factors as crucial to building community resilience including: an informed constituency organized for collective action; a body of knowledge and practices that enables communities to combat the effects of disaster and climate risk particularly with regard to livelihoods; and government-community partnerships to enhance accountability and responsiveness.[6]

13. A community-led approach to resilience needs to combine action to advance knowledge, demonstrate solutions, mobilize communities and build relationships with decision makers. Guidelines for the involvement of local communities and their participation in local planning processes could be developed to drive the implementation of the post-2015 framework.[7] If necessary, policies and laws could be enacted to ensure the full participation of communities.[8]

Strengthen national institutions

14. Stakeholders made clear the need for improved national governance to manage disaster risk but views varied on the institutional arrangements. Some proposed the establishment of a multi-stakeholder mechanism to enable international, national, local and private sector partnership for the support, funding and implementation of national disaster risk reduction policies,[9] while the establishment of a dedicated ministry tasked with the coordination and implementation of disaster risk reduction-related activities across sectors and other ministries (like environment, health, education, agriculture and others) was also advocated for.[10]

15. Measures are needed to strengthen existing national platforms for disaster risk reduction as they often suffer from insufficient authority to influence country-level policies.[11] For many, national platforms should be backed by formal policies and legislation that establishes clear mandates, roles and functions.[12] A good model identified is the formal establishment and connection of national platforms to the highest political level (for example cabinet or the office of the Head of State).[13]

16. A review of national platforms called for a strengthening of their role to include: advocating for disaster risk reduction at the national level; raising public and political awareness; advising on climate change adaptation and sustainable development integration; fostering the exchange of experiences and expertise, for example through twinning arrangements and peer-reviews; enhancing the collaboration with the private sector and local communities; and facilitating the application of science and evidenced-based decision-making in disaster risk reduction.[14]

Policies and legislation

17. The main progress made in living up to the expectations of the Hyogo Framework for Action in recent years has been qualitative, grounded in policies, legislation and planning that lays the foundation for more quantitatively measurable achievements in the future. Since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, 121 countries have enacted legislation to establish policy and legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction.

18. Legal and policy frameworks are important, but they do not always translate into effective risk reduction. Principles must be applied that require organization and resources. In many cases, the resources are lacking for implementing the legal and policy frameworks in the way that legislators intended. Moreover, most of the legal and policy frameworks continue to have a pronounced focus on disaster management. There is an increasing awareness that disaster management legislation may not be the most suited instrument to

address questions of prevention and reduction of disaster risk and is better addressed in development and investment-related regulatory frameworks.

19. Overall, there is growing recognition that the prevention and reduction of disaster risk is a legal obligation, encompassing risk assessments, the establishment of early warning systems, and the right to access risk information. In this regard, the progressive development and codification of international law concerning the "protection of persons in the event of disasters" is highly relevant and has been welcomed.[15] Parliamentarians also have a strategic role to play in strengthening integrated risk governance through legislation, oversight and allocation of resources vis-à-vis the communities they represent.[16]

Call for guidelines, criteria and standards

20. Stakeholders voiced the need for good practices in disaster risk reduction to be enhanced.[17] In particular, the need for standard setting for building codes, land use, and preparedness were commonly expressed.[18] To be most effective, standards need to be based upon agreed criteria and good practice.[19] Such standards increase the reliability and communicability of what is shared and could establish common terminology and language. The specific standards on risk information need to be flexible and not overly prescriptive while helping to build consistency, comparability, credibility and inter-operability.[20]

Resources for disaster risk reduction

21. While many stakeholders acknowledged the lack of funding for disaster risk reduction,[21] often compounded by constrained fiscal space,[22] the true scale of resources invested in disaster risk management from both public and private sources is unknown. Much of the investment is embedded within sector-based investments at both the national and sub-national levels. Without an overview of funding for disaster risk reduction, funds commonly remain inadequate or used inefficiently. An enhanced capability to evaluate the current level of investment in disaster risk management will enable a more accurate estimate of additional funding required to effectively reduce disaster risk.[23] Proposals have been made for governments to allocate a proportion of their development budget for disaster risk reduction.[24] Annual budgeting for disaster risk reduction activities could also be institutionalized at the federal, state and local level.[25] This is most likely to succeed where robust national public investment planning systems are supported by risk assessment[26] showing fiscal impact and incidence, detailed cost benefit analyses (against actual expenditure) at the pre-investment stage, and by clear, reinforced risk governance arrangements.

22. Ministries of finance and planning are considered fundamental for the systematic consideration of disaster risk in public investment, but sustained risk-sensitive investment will be contingent on ownership by sector-based ministries.[27] The role of the national institution responsible for disaster risk reduction could promote the use of relevant financial instruments (for example in national development planning and investments),[28] and advise on the allocation of resources to critical areas of risk reduction. If countries are to be proactive on disaster risk reduction, a better understanding is required of what losses governments, and particularly ministries of finance (as the institution with overall fiduciary responsibility for the determination, distribution and evaluation of the national budget), are willing and able to bear.[29]

23. Funding streams from the national government could be further established to support local government and community-level activities to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.[30] The lack of human resources with technical expertise was also highlighted as a particular gap for local governments. Other practices like implementing a multi-year common strategic approach or innovative funding approaches, such as insurance schemes,

could also be promoted and adapted to specific contexts.[31] Funding for disaster risk reduction should be included in both humanitarian and development funding streams and the link between the two should be explicit.[32]

Support for regional cooperation

24. A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction should encourage regional mechanisms and programmes for cooperation. The aim would be to start to address transboundary risk through, for example, regional-level risk assessments and planning. Stakeholders identified that regional and sub-regional collaboration to capture good practices, fill information gaps, transfer technical knowledge and establish collaborative arrangements.[33]

25. Stakeholders called for regional intergovernmental organizations to play an important role in the implementation of a post-2015 framework. For example, the European Union plays a vital role in Europe to drive the implementation of risk management policy as is the case with other regional intergovernmental organizations such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). More concerted effort can be made to strengthen the institutional capacity of sub-regional and regional institutions and deepen political commitments for making the existing cooperation arrangements more effective – and especially at the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction. Measures to build regional cooperation on interconnected issues that are essential for sustainable development should be introduced, such as for food and energy security, gender equality, health, environment and climate risk.[34]

Integration and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction

26. Stakeholders almost universally called for more integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction – and especially with development and climate.[35] One proposal was for a post-2015 framework to acknowledge as a principle that disaster risk reduction is a development issue with a long-term approach to be undertaken through programmatic activities and funds.[36] Stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific recommended the establishment of high-level national steering committees or task forces to manage integration of disaster risk reduction across the many sectors and areas of work. Similarly, at regional level, countries could establish a regional integration strategy, framework or plan, as is being done by Pacific Islands Countries and Territories through a new Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development.[37]

27. Other integration methods included: the use of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, the development and inclusion of targets in local development plans, and the allocation of a percentage of budget for disaster prevention and risk reduction as measures to promote integration. Joint programming, development of partnerships that meet implementation needs across agreements and alignment of donor funding streams (as relevant) could also encourage integration.[38] One very concrete suggestion was for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to be aligned with the assessment of loss and damage that is part of the climate change adaptation agenda under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process.[39]

Inclusive approach

28. Through the inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction many groups ranging from national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, Red Cross and Red Crescent, non-governmental organizations, mayors and parliamentarians, representatives of local communities, indigenous peoples, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and leaders from business, academia and science have engaged in risk reduction efforts. The multistakeholder nature of global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction have

promoted inclusion through sharing information and best practices, seeking partnerships, and determining priorities and policies.

29. The General Assembly, through resolution 68/211, recognised the Global Platform as the main global forum for consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, largely due to its encouragement of all actors and stakeholders. At the fourth and most recent session in May 2013, newcomers included representatives from the cultural heritage profession, standards-setting bodies and auditors, civilian-military cooperation, persons with disabilities, and animal welfare groups to discuss their contribution to a preventative approach to risk management.[40]

Business and industry (private sector)

30. The private sector is in a unique position to influence the accumulation of risk as it is responsible for 70 to 85 percent of all investment in the world, much of it in the form of infrastructure in cyclone- and tsunami-prone coastlines, flood-prone river basins and in earthquake-prone cities.[41] Investing in hazard-prone locations usually offers business comparative advantages that translate into higher productivity, profitability and competitiveness. Multiple investments over decades, however, have accumulated high levels of disaster risk, which now negatively affect that competitiveness. Disaster risk is still not considered fully in large companies and small enterprises usually do not undertake systematic risk assessments. New perspectives on business risk management are now emerging. A number of large global businesses are now demanding risk assessments from small businesses that are key suppliers, and a few are undertaking risk assessment as a basis for their supply chain management, for example.[42]

Persons with disabilities

31. Persons with disabilities participated actively at the fourth session of the Global Platform in May 2013 and in the 2013 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. An extensive survey of the needs of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction was undertaken in 2013.[43] The common call is for persons with disabilities to be included in disaster risk reduction policy, planning and implementation at all stages of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. One concrete area raised in the consultations is the lack of data and evidence on the impact of disasters on persons with disabilities to ensure a factual basis for decisions and planning.[44]

Children and youth

32. The voice of children and youth is being promoted and listened to in regional and global disaster risk reduction fora.[45] School children are also more involved in assessing their school's safety. Building on the 2013 Global Platform's session on "The Resilient Future We Want" and the Chairs' Summary, a worldwide mobilization of children and youth around disaster risk reduction has been ongoing since early 2014 through social media with the engagement of a growing number of youth-led movements. Children and youth have been invited to identify their priorities and to build long-term commitments to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.[46]

Gender in disaster risk reduction policy and planning

33. Stakeholders called for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to address gender issues as a primary and integral factor.[47] The Asia-Pacific region in particular called for resourcing, financing and budgeting for action that includes women and promotes gender equality. Investment should be informed by sex- and age-disaggregated data at every level.[48] National governments could mandate context-specific gender analysis for all

levels of disaster risk reduction planning and ensure there is capacity to implement such analysis.

Leadership of women

34. A post-2015 framework needs to acknowledge that women must be part of disaster risk reduction, from prevention to rehabilitation, and it should define a stronger role for women to enable them to take leadership roles in disaster risk reduction.[49] Women's ministries or focal points for women's affairs could ensure the availability and use of appropriate tools, methodologies and expertise in disaster risk reduction planning stages and should sign off on the plans; in turn these plans could be used as indicators of progress established through memoranda of understanding between the ministry of women and the national disaster reduction institution. This will also ensure that disaster risk reduction programmes conform to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and other related international conventions. Women's inclusion in planning should be monitored through the post-2015 framework's monitoring system.[50]

B. Hyogo Framework for Action Priority for Action 2 – Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

35. Stakeholders identified the need to establish and consolidate sound risk data and risk assessments to nurture a culture of data-supported decision-making. Risk assessments are required at all levels (global, regional, national and local) depending on the type of decision-making required. The need for risk information targeted at local-level needs as well as access to open-source information were identified as priorities. Enhancing risk knowledge should be a key element of the effort to engage more directly the evidence of the scientific community in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.[51] A common message under the Hyogo Framework for Action priority for action 2 is to continue to strengthen early warning systems and share good practices around monitoring risks.

Risk information

36. A major emphasis was placed on the use of statistics around disaster losses to make the economic case for investment in disaster risk reduction.[52] It is essential that national disaster databases document not only the impact of large, intensive disasters but also the accumulated losses from everyday events. Stakeholders reiterated the need for disaggregated loss data, and to account for indirect losses in employment and production, investment, savings and capital formation, welfare and social impacts.[53]

37. Additional concerns included the need to standardize loss data to ensure it is collected and shared in comparable formats and for loss data and all risk information to be accessible to all, as the latter are public goods in the same way as data on health, education, employment and the economy.[54]

38. Stakeholders emphasized repeatedly the need for demographic and sex-disaggregated data for risk and loss assessments as well as clarification on responsibility for implementing and monitoring sex-disaggregated indicators. They also noted the need to develop methodology, tools and clear guidance, as well as making expertise available for gender-sensitive disaster risk assessments, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments. The process and methodologies used for risk assessment should be participative and inclusive and appropriate to the needs and applications of users. The work of United Nations resident coordinators at local level could be supported through the United Nations' Common Country Assessments in the context of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.[55]

Strengthen early warning systems

39. Stakeholders called for a post-2015 framework to strengthen early warning systems, in particular for hydro meteorological hazards and related disasters. The essential elements of such systems include the forecasting, formatting, presenting and communicating of warnings. The accompanying public education and capacity-building need to be given special attention. Public weather service programmes require continuous support for the application of new technology and scientific research in data acquisition and use, especially for nowcasting and multi-hazard warnings.

40. Other fora suggested including environmental monitoring, such as ecosystems mapping, establishing mechanisms for early action such as adapting decision-making procedures and financial regulations, increasing community surveillance to monitor threats at the animal/human interface and develop community plans for response and recovery, and jointly producing and disseminating early warning information between scientific and local communities ensuring it is timely and culturally sensitive and delivered in a manner that enables action by all.[56]

Local-level data and risk information

41. Stakeholders recommended that a post-2015 framework include a clearer programme of risk communication at the local level.[57] This would require prioritizing local data collection and the strengthening of local databases by governments, with support from United Nations agencies as relevant to generate comparable statistics and build local government capacity. Participatory mechanisms could be adopted for collecting and updating local data, and data collection methods should be context specific and gender sensitive.[58]

42. Also identified were several requirements in relation to the role of scientific information: there is a need to include local and indigenous knowledge in scientific information; to promote international and national institutions to help connect science to policy; and.to improve how scientists and technical specialists communicate risk to enable decision-makers to systematically incorporate risk information into their decisions.[59]

43. At the initiative of countries at the World Climate Conference in 2009, the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established based on extensive consultations and expert inputs. Hosted by the World Metrological Organization, GFCS has developed four priority areas for early attention that present immediate opportunities for improved decision making. These are disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, health and water. Partners have called on climate services to be further recognized as contributing to reducing disaster risk post-2015.[60]

44. Among emerging risks, some stakeholders proposed that a post-2015 framework should include the protection of cultural heritage,[61] while others called for the framework to recognize and provide guidance for different operating environments.[62] Particularly noted were the accumulation of risk in urban areas, fragile countries characterized by political instability and borne out of social inequality (not only a fragile country issue – global increasing inequality is a major issue in the sustainable development goals discussions as well), and issues for countries in protracted crisis and conflicts leading to displacement, some of which will be exacerbated by climate change.

Open access to information

45. Open-access risk information, produced using open source platforms, is essential to underpin dialogue between business, governments and communities on the design of effective disaster risk reduction strategies. Governments could consider introducing minimum standards for data accessibility and availability.[63] Collaboration between the public and private sectors, including the insurance industry, on generating and applying open access risk information could also be significantly strengthened and innovative model of risk information access further explored and exchanged.[64]

46. New technologies and social media could be harnessed to raise disaster risk reduction awareness and develop innovative communication campaigns and tools, such as disaster risk reduction open days at school, and develop guidelines for risk assessment and preparedness for example in nurseries, schools and hospitals.[65]

C. Hyogo Framework for Action Priority for Action 3 – Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

47. A reinvigorated approach to public awareness and advocacy was frequently mentioned as a key area for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.[66] New policies that promoted risk as "everybody's job" were identified as a key message for a post-2015 framework. The role of the media in disseminating risk information and promoting transparency was particularly highlighted.[67]

48. Good practices in risk dissemination included ensuring that information communicated is simple, practical and tailored to stakeholder needs; dissemination methods are accessible to women and consider women's communication methods and networks; communications take a multi-hazard approach; and to use new technologies and social media, innovative communication campaigns and tools.[68] The recipients of risk communication include various community groups with particular needs and priorities, including groups with special needs (such as the elderly, children and youth, and persons with disabilities) and those experiencing the greatest inequality and exclusion, who need to lower their exposure to risk.[69]

Capacity building

49. Requests for information and tools on implementation were a strong theme in most of the consultations. Accordingly, many stakeholders called for more attention to capacity-building and in particular at the local level.[70] Target audiences identified for training included local governments and communities, community leaders and the media. Some stakeholders called for capacity-building efforts to move away from technical workshops to much more structured training within higher education, for example at masters and doctorate levels.[71] Others emphasized that capacity-building efforts need to integrate sustainability and climate risk.

Culture of safety and education

50. On the topic of education, stakeholders reiterated the need to ensure the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, and to promote an integrated approach with sustainable development and climate risk.[72] Disaster risk reduction in education could be promoted through youth networks and high school students, including the use of peer education methodology.[73] The Africa region

in particular called for the development of networks of higher education institutions to be promoted.[74]

51. The high level dialogue and communiqué at the Global Platform in 2013 agreed to advocate for all new schools to be safe.[75] As requested in the communiqué, an initiative for safe schools is being developed to mobilize the political support and commitments of countries and partners to be announced at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015.

52. A Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector has designed a model for safe schools that promotes disaster-resilient learning facilities; school disaster and emergency management; and risk reduction and resilience education.[76] These priority areas came out strongly in the consultations. A digital platform and crowd-sourcing initiatives have also been developed to mobilize children, teachers, school staff, local governments and communities in assessing their school and in collecting data to track progress in school safety at the global level. Regional intergovernmental organizations are also supporting and promoting school safety implementation at the sub-regional and national levels.[77]

D. Hyogo Framework for Action Priority for Action 4 – Reduce the underlying risk factors

53. Evidence through country monitor reports points to priority for action 4 – to reduce the underlying risk factors – as showing the least progress under the Hyogo Framework for Action.[78] In the consultations on a post-2015 framework, this area required the most attention and focus especially taking into account the management of risk and sustainability within development efforts.[79]

54. To address the underlying risk factors, the post-2015 framework could focus efforts on the reduction of exposure of people and assets with an emphasis on preventing disaster risk and building resilience. Measures to reduce exposure could provide further guidance to overcome implementation barriers in the underlying risk factors. For instance, to address the increasing exposure caused by rapidly growing cities, there is a need to systematically improve spatial, urban and land-use planning to reduce economic exposure.[80] There would also need to be much more sector-specific implementation plans.

Disaster risk reduction in key sectors like agriculture, food security, health and education

55. There is some progress in integrating disaster risk reduction in agriculture recovery plans, usually focusing on strengthening the national disaster risk reduction system. The agriculture sector requires the presence of clear cross-sector national policies that make mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development sectors an explicit and strategic priority. Also helpful is a good understanding of the nexus between disaster risk and sustainable agriculture development and the global agenda on climate change adaptation. At the same time there remains a persistent focus on disaster management rather than risk reduction. Progress has also not translated into enabling institutional mechanisms within the sector or financial allocation for disaster risk reduction in agriculture.

56. Disaster risk reduction in the education sector emerged as a priority in regional conferences and benefits from a number of targeted campaigns and commitments. The monitoring of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2013 refers to 30 percent of countries that have been able to include disaster risk reduction in curricula at all education levels despite the lack of indicators, frameworks and monitoring system.[81] Calls have been made

for disaster risk reduction to remain a priority in the follow-up programme of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.[82]

57. Health was amongst the top three overall priorities for communities and was referred to as a pre-requisite for disaster risk reduction. At least 130 countries have national health emergency preparedness plans and 40 have established the necessary core-capacities to put in place International Health Regulations. A suggestion is for the International Health Regulations to be embedded within a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.[83]

58. Consultations have called for countries and communities with better capacities to manage the health risks associated with emergencies and disasters, bridging the health and multi-sector Emergency Risk Management. Health is not just about saving lives. Overall, there is a need to recognize the impacts of disasters on the wellbeing of people and to underline how to manage health risks through stronger health systems. There is progress on the resilience of health systems, including safer hospitals and related health indicators. Some 77 countries across the world have reported that they are implementing safe hospital activities.[84] A Global Safe Hospitals initiative is gaining momentum following the call from the High Level Communiqué of the Global Platform in May 2013 to rally behind safe schools and safe health facilities.

Urban risk and infrastructure

59. The importance of promoting resilient urban development and of investing in resilient infrastructures programmes – linking risk reduction to sustainable development – was raised in several consultations.[85] As a consequence of demographic pressure, urbanization and the impacts of climate change, urban planning and infrastructure development will need to be rethought. A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction could call for more comprehensive urban planning policies that take into account new risk trends and involve inter-disciplinary expertise in the development of safe and robust infrastructures. Urban risk assessments particularly need to be strengthened leading to building codes and enforcement.

Ecosystems-based disaster risk reduction

60. While the current Hyogo Framework for Action recognizes the role of sustainable ecosystems management in disaster risk reduction, stakeholders recommended it be strengthened and elaborated.[86] An ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation approach could be promoted and supported by national policies and integrated in local level/community-led initiatives (for example flood and drought prevention through rain harvesting, preservation/restoration of vegetation surrounding urban areas). In addition to an ecosystem-based approach, linkages between the environment and disaster risk reduction could be made explicit in specific sector plans and policies.

Strategic use of environmental impact assessments

61. Many consultations highlighted the need to strengthen the integration between the environment and disaster risk reduction. To this end several stakeholders[87] suggested the integration of disaster risk reduction within project environmental impact assessments and also in strategic environmental assessments (used for strategic planning and policies) to ensure that both public and private investments, including in post-disaster reconstruction contexts, are aware of disaster risk and bound to take proactive action to mitigate the risks in an environmentally sustainable manner as per national legislation.

Sector approaches

62. A post-2015 framework may want to look at key sectors and themes in which progress needs to be bold and promotes a sector-by-sector approach to reducing underlying risk. For instance, countries could identify key sectors and set targets for risk governance in specific sectors, make financial commitments to reducing risk in those sectors, systematically incorporate disaster risk reduction in post-disaster recovery in those sectors, and undertake monitoring and reporting for the sectors.[88] This approach tackles directly the difficulty of making progress under Priority for Action 4 by drilling down to enact policies and implement programmes in the sectors of greatest national priority. It would require active engagement of the priority sector's stakeholders to understand its dynamics, capacities and constraints so as to introduce disaster risk reduction measures systematically.[89]

Changing risks, development and exposure

63. The Hyogo Framework for Action does not explicitly recognise the changing nature of risk; it is therefore important for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to emphasize the benefits of taking action now to address the long-term drivers of trends in risk) and the need to anticipate the long-term risks and impact on policy and investment decisions of today. This should be underpinned by flexible approaches based on regular monitoring and integration of new information.

64. A post-2015 framework could therefore focus on fostering holistic, sustainable development approaches that do not create new risk. Since knowledge of disaster risk is essential to inform investment planning, development strategy and policy decisions, guidance is required on how improvements in the quality, availability and accessibility of risk information can facilitate a sustainable approach.[90] Building resilience through sound development strategies, practice and planning is emerging, evidenced by the strong references of disaster risk reduction as a prerequisite for sustainable development in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, (Rio+20), "The future we want," and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

E. Hyogo Framework for Action Priority for Action 5 – Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

65. During consultations, stakeholders underscored the connections between prevention, mitigation, preparedness, recovery and reconstruction.[91] Better preparedness for disasters saves both lives and assets. Preparedness measures therefore are integral to good response, recovery and reconstruction efforts as well as development policy and planning.[92] A further benefit is that preparedness and risk reduction helps to bridge the separate humanitarian and development efforts.

Preparedness coordination

66. Stronger and more strategic international crisis management, emergency preparedness and cooperation mechanisms will be required in the future as transboundary and multi-hazard disasters become more apparent and complex. Collaboration needs to be made more simple with a well-organized approach to disaster response and management.

67. Stakeholders urged for better coordination based on approaches such as linking of relief rehabilitation and development.[93] To the extent possible, the local level could be the starting point for prioritization and coordination of government and institutional activities

in preparedness coordination. Mechanisms are needed to ensure closer cooperation between international, national and local stakeholders in emergency preparedness measures, particularly in situations of chronic vulnerability or protracted crisis that require an integrated approach that addresses short, medium and long-term needs simultaneously.

68. Financing for preparedness could be better coordinated and planned, and innovative financing mechanisms sought, including public-private partnerships, which are critical for emergency preparedness and response.[94] As preparedness is part of a disaster risk reduction approach, funding also needs to be part of a common-sense approach to planning and development.

Capacity for preparedness

69. A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction needs to be aware of the capacity limits of governments and stakeholders. At regional level, intergovernmental organizations should enhance their role as regional leaders and provide capacity enhancement of Member States.[95] It is important to recognize, however, that the capacity and level of political commitment on preparedness in regional intergovernmental organizations varies across organizations. At national level, capacity building in preparedness, including at the community level and in sectoral ministries such as health, education and agriculture, needs to be strengthened, including through multi-year programmes (long-term approach).[96]

Self-help and volunteers

70. Some of the consultations highlighted the importance supporting mechanisms and legislation that consider self-help in disasters and that are compatible with people's self-help capacities.[97] This includes recognizing self-organizing community groups as critical actors in "ground response" and help. In particular, engagement of youth and children in disaster preparedness activities and greater capacity building for youth volunteers on disaster response were highlighted as opportunities to increase resilience at local level.[98]

Inclusive approach in preparedness

71. The planning and execution of emergency plans and preparedness practices needs to include a range of stakeholders (during evacuation processes, in rescue operations, when undertaking post-disaster needs assessments). The inclusion of women and their perspectives on what needs to be delivered in emergency situations is fundamental. Similarly persons with disabilities need to be included and be actively participating in the planning, preparedness and implementation process. The issue of access was highlighted for more attention particularly during emergencies when people require access to emergency services.[99]

72. The need for emergency response teams and volunteers (emergency, humanitarian and civil) on how to respond to and communicate with communities during disaster response was also highlighted. An important measure is alternative communication skills tailored to people with disabilities, for example via sign language interpreters. Stakeholders recommended support for the development of standards and protocols for the protection, rescue and care of people where and when they are at immediate risk of a disaster.

Environmental emergencies

73. Preparedness for environmental emergencies (for example oil spills and chemical contamination) was highlighted by some stakeholders. It was also identified that the environmental impacts of disasters and disaster response need to be an integral part of overall disaster preparedness and contingency plans.[100]

Pandemics

74. A post-2015 framework could promote increased international cooperation for dealing with the spread of pandemic disease. A multi-hazard, cross sector and whole-of-society approach to pandemic planning and preparedness is required.[101] Communities should be encouraged to put in place plans for ensuring the continuity of essential services under pandemic conditions and to rapidly restore any essential services affected during the spread of infectious diseases. To advance pandemic preparedness, regional intergovernmental bodies can be further resourced to strengthen institutions, infrastructure and tactical capacities together with communication and early warning capacities.

Recovery and reconstruction

75. Recovery and reconstruction efforts can be difficult and traumatic after a catastrophic event with expectations to meet, funds to raise and priorities to set. For smaller and more regular disaster events, people often rebuild with limited resources and lack of political support leading to extended periods or relapse into poverty (or less growth). An internationally agreed framework for cooperation that covers recovery will be useful in assisting disaster-affected nations both in guidance and to help build more capacity[102]. A well-planned, inclusive and strategic approach to recovery and reconstruction helps stakeholders with their competing or diverging priorities to rally around.

76. Such frameworks need to provide non-prescriptive and adaptable guidance on: (a) Institutional Frameworks for Recovery; (b) Recovery Policy and Planning; (c) Recovery Financing, and; (d) Recovery Management and Monitoring. The aim is also to develop and include concrete and measurable indicators to monitor progress of implementation and achievement of recovery goals, and to specify the need for systems that enable the transparent generation of reliable and actionable knowledge about the recovery process and enforce appropriate accountability for the recovery and its consequences.[103]

77. It is unrealistic to expect all governments to maintain a body of staff possessing all areas of expertise required to meet the technical needs of a recovery planning effort. However, such resources do exist, in part, throughout various countries within a region and at regional organizations. The solution lies mostly in identifying such technical experts, connecting resources and needs, and the facilitation of opportunities for assistance.[104] Partnerships, especially with the private sector, can enhance impacts of recovery. Appropriate engagement of the public and private sector, mass media, civil society and external organizations can also facilitate effective long-term recovery.[105]

III. Focus areas of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

78. Governments and other stakeholders expressed a number of views during the consultations on the overall scope and main elements that should be emphasized and reiterated in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The following areas benefitted from general agreement in multiple consultations.

Continuity between Hyogo Framework for Action and the post-2015 framework

79. All stakeholders reiterated the value and need for the Hyogo Framework of Action while emphasizing that its implementation was far from complete.[106] The Hyogo Framework for Action should, therefore, continue to guide disaster risk reduction. A post-2015 framework could provide further guidance on new, important areas to focus risk reduction efforts over the next 20 to 30 years.[107] Implementation of the post-2015

framework should be a continuing process leading on from the Hyogo Framework for Action, leveraging lessons gleaned from implementation to address gaps and scaling up achievements. It should also build on the achievements of other international agreements.

Coherence and mutual reinforcement

80. A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction needs to be coherent and mutually reinforcing with other main relevant post-2015 processes, including the sustainable development goals, climate agreements, the World Humanitarian Summit and World Reconstruction Conferences and other related international processes.[108] A post-2015 framework should identify mechanisms both at the international level and at the national levels to facilitate mutual reinforcement, for example through political recognition and policy coherence of existing work and agreements; integration of plans and programmes; shared targets, indicators, reporting and monitoring systems; mobilizing of voluntary commitments; and promotion of partnerships and cooperation across agreements and frameworks.[109]

Climate risk

81. Stakeholders unanimously emphasized the need to refer to climate risk, and in particular adaptation and resilience, more fully into a post-2015 framework. Stakeholders recognized that it was necessary to take concrete steps to reduce the creation of risk by climate change as a disaster risk reduction priority. A post-2015 framework could promote approaches that address both climate variability and climate resilience, as well as address prominent risks identified in the Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation.[110]

82. Stakeholders called specifically for the integration of climate change adaptation into national disaster risk management frameworks, the integration of disaster risk reduction into climate change adaptation strategies, the development of joint action plans, and the proposal to promote national resilience strategies that integrate climate risk and development concerns. Joint problem-solving mechanisms that connect disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation communities were proposed as solutions for furthering the resilience-building agenda in the future.[111]

Broadening the scope

83. There is wide agreement that the post-2015 framework should bring greater attention to small disasters or extensive risk—highly localized, frequently occurring disasters that are under-supported under-estimated in their social and economic impacts and hence by national planning and investment priorities as well as in internationally supported efforts.[112] At the same time, the effects of climate change and accumulated exposure to risk will require attention to high-impact events, as they are increasing in frequency and intensity.[113] A post-2015 framework will need to guide risk reduction actions for catastrophic, intensive events, which receive greater attention, as well as the many small-scale extensive events at the local level.[114] More research is required to determine if a set of actions will see results in reducing the risk in both intensive and extensive cases.

84. The economic and social impact of disasters travels quickly and immediately through a globalized and highly interconnected economic, financial and trade system as well as through social media. Therefore, the transboundary-nature of risk has become more evident. Disasters are local in impact and global in outcome. Stakeholders identified transboundary risk as a challenge to be addressed beyond 2015.[115] Regional platforms for disaster risk reduction provide an opportunity to focus on transboundary related concerns

and develop further cooperation for example through regional plans, agreements and approaches. Regional intergovernmental organizations were also encouraged to work on preventive measures for transboundary hazards.[116]

85. There was consensus among stakeholders that natural, man-made and technological impacts of disaster risks were within the scope of a post-2015 framework. A new understanding of the relationship between natural and technological or man-made risks is emerging. Stakeholders, for example, identified risks such as those related to nuclear power and toxic waste, including mercury pollution,[117] displacement, and in the protection of cultural heritage.[118] Natural risks can lead to technological risks,[119] resulting in multi-hazard risks. Man-made climate risks alters natural climate-related hazards and leads to new risks such as vector borne diseases. The potential disaster risk can also be applied to fragile states and conflict situations over resources (for example water and grazing land).[120]

Focus on the local level

86. Stakeholders repeatedly emphasized that the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action had not provided enough support at the local level. A post-2015 framework should fill the gap by focusing on local risk and its reduction. Furthermore the language of the framework should be simple and aimed at mayors, local authorities and local stakeholders. The post-2015 framework needs to provide guidance to promote community involvement, be conceived from the bottom-up and to encourage the private sector's participation at local level.[121] In addition, local-level stakeholders requested a post-2015 framework to define specific implementation measures for them.

87. Given the world's trend toward urbanization, urban risk was identified as a primary focus for the post-2015 framework particularly in the Arab region and Africa. The development of instruments to ensure that adequate budgets were available to local government is crucial, together with decentralization and clarification of roles and responsibilities, to enhance local-level action.[122]

Strengthen governance, accountability and monitoring

88. Stakeholders called for appropriate risk governance, defined as the system of norms, institutions and interactions that determine how decisions are made and enforced. The governance of critical risk areas will be a priority in future.[123] Identified gaps and challenges relate to the division of clear responsibilities across public and private actors and the setting of appropriate accountability mechanisms regarding how public decisions are enforced and private investments made. Stakeholders identified the need for coordination and the facilitation of joined-up approaches that support integrated methodologies and the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development.[124]

89. A more robust approach to risk governance structures that enables regular monitoring, flexible and adaptive planning, and learning and effective responses to new information is required.[125] Stakeholders universally agreed that monitoring mechanisms for disaster risk reduction should be enhanced in the post-2015 framework to enable comprehensive reporting on implementation of disaster risk reduction efforts and thus improve accountability.[126] The monitoring system should continue to link with the current Hyogo Framework for Action reporting and future indicators based on the analysis of past country reports. Stakeholders have called for and proposed sets of goals and targets with criteria and indicators. The introduction of disaster related targets and criteria ensures increased political support for disaster risk reduction, as well as visibility and accountability for delivering integration of risk management in other sectors.[127]

90. There were many calls for simplified monitoring that reduces the burden on countries and is aligned with other reporting processes. Better monitoring and evaluation

frameworks, baseline information and indicators to enable progress measurement and benchmarking to account for success and outcomes were seen as important tools.[128] Suggestions were also made for promoting the use of voluntary peer reviews for disaster risk reduction.[129]

Economic case for disaster risk reduction

91. A post-2015 framework needs to make the economic and business case for disaster risk reduction, by showing how disaster losses impact on economic growth and business and national competitiveness, and how business and economic investments can determine the increase of existing, and the accumulation of new, risk. Global foreign direct investment is projected to reach US$1.9 trillion in 2014 and an even larger sum of new domestic investment is expected.[130] These trillions in investments will be flowing into hazard-exposed areas, largely determining the future of risk. Equally, whether the increase in exposure, generated by such investments is managed through sound risk management strategies, will largely determine whether the investments contribute to long-term economic growth and sustainable development.

92. Although the Hyogo Framework of Action identified important ways to reduce risk (such as risk assessment, access to information and addressing the underlying risk drivers), further consideration is needed on prospectively managing risk through risk-sensitive public investment planning and business investment. Thinking on how to scale up spending in support of risk reduction efforts in a way that effectively provides domestic investment is also needed.[131] For this, it will be important to show how disaster losses jeopardize the financial resilience of nations, impacting on mid- to long-term growth, fiscal stability and the national balance of accounts.

93. The case for investing in disaster risk reduction needs to be brought to the attention of strategic, planning and finance managers using more research around the economics of disasters, the approach of the private sector and use of tools to support cost-benefit analysis. Current investment practice, where risk continues to be externalized from planning and economic forecasting, has to be reformed to make transparent the negative consequences of risk-generating investment and business behaviour. To do this effectively, disaster risk has to be considered along the whole investment chain, from asset owners and investment fund managers, insurers and reinsurers, and business information service providers, to small and medium enterprises, large national and international corporations, national governments, market regulators and consumers. The real price of risk has to be assessed through cost-benefit analysis, environmental impact assessments and social analysis that make use of exposure and vulnerability analysis in hazard-prone regions.

Role of the private sector

94. The private sector has a high stake in disaster risk reduction and needs to be involved as a partner in its implementation.[132] The major disasters that struck Japan and Thailand in 2011 and the United States of America in 2012 revealed how disasters can impact businesses. Disasters can interrupt or paralyse output through damage to factories, offices and other resources. They can also destroy systems upon which businesses depend, such as transport and energy networks, and affect the labour market directly and indirectly. The effects of business interruption can have pervasive effects on business competitiveness, as they increasingly affect global supply chains, and can lead to bankruptcy, particularly for small and medium enterprises.[133]

95. Since businesses are also vulnerable to disasters, companies have a vital interest in risk reduction efforts.[134] It is more cost-effective to prevent or prepare for disasters than it is to respond to and recover from them. By reducing risk, particularly extensive risk, a

business can be much more competitive in the long run. Companies can leverage operational business strategies, such as supply chain management and business continuity planning, which promote corporate sustainability and shareholder value. These measures, when carried out in partnership with the public sector, also strengthen the foundations of resilience and lead to economic opportunities for large as well as for small to medium enterprises.[135] Building resilience is also an important new market opportunity: there is a need for services for resilient infrastructure, risk management consultancy, and risk sharing instruments, among others.

96. A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction could promote stronger engagement with the private sector by jointly identifying an enabling environment for businesses. Such an environment may include economic incentives (such as tax waivers, subsidies, grants, loans), as well as legal and regulatory framework (such as building code, resilient land use planning and zoning).[136] Strategies are needed in particular to encourage risk-sensitive investment of small and medium-sized businesses and support greater engagement between the private sector and local communities.

97. The role of the private sector in delivering the post-2015 framework needs to be spelled out more clearly and in a differentiated manner for local and national levels. Evidence has shown that involving relevant actors in early stages of planning and development of regulation, particularly at the local level, enables more realistic implementation frameworks and can create effective checks and balances and higher levels of compliance. This is particularly the case for key industries such as the construction sector, utility companies and information and communication technology businesses. The international community needs to recognize that, today, these industries invest in and operate the majority of critical urban, and increasingly also rural, infrastructure. Therefore, identifying concrete roles and responsibilities for actors in these industries will be critical to the success of reducing future disaster risk.

98. Insurance can potentially play an important role in disaster risk reduction but only where the enabling environment allows for appropriate pricing and coverage. Governments and insurance companies are yet to take full advantage of this potential.[137] Stakeholders identified the role of the insurance sector as particularly relevant. A post-2015 framework could provide guidance on ways to couple disaster risk reduction and risk transfer mechanisms, taking into account the expertise of the insurance industry in risk assessment and underwriting, as well as the role that risk transfer mechanisms will play in the future.[138]

99. A post-2015 framework could make it clear that disaster risk is an opportunity and not just a threat.[139] The emphasis needs to change from the possibility of a disaster event (something to face) to the possibility of an action (something to do). Businesses need to be involved in the effort to create a more safe and secure environment and move beyond disaster risk reduction as corporate social responsibility. Disaster risk reduction is an investment with an increasing potential for high rates of return.[140]

Science and technology

100. Stakeholders identified that science and technology contribute to improving understanding of hazards and risk, and provide new insights and methods for reducing risk. It was noted, however, that policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction were not always based on science. The importance of bringing scientific and technology discoveries to the local level was identified for consideration in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.[141]

101. Science and technology are required for disaster risk reduction in three main areas: to develop, communicate, transfer, prove and mainstream methods to reduce risk; to

support education, research and innovation; and to build the evidence base needed to inform and persuade decision-makers and the public to undertake disaster risk reduction measures.[142] Recommendations included promoting regular and closer interaction between scientists and policy- and decision-makers at local and national levels, improving the transformation of scientific knowledge for public use and capacity building, and promoting stronger scientific and technical capacity to support policy making and programmes. Initiatives such as the Global Framework for Climate Services can help anchor a post-2015 framework in an applied approach to science.[143] Enhancing risk knowledge should be a key element of an effort to improve the integration of the scientific community in a post-2015 framework.

Equity and inclusivity

102. Disasters undermine people's personal safety and security, as well as economic and social rights including a standard of living adequate for health, wellbeing and education. To effectively reduce disaster risk, governments require the collaboration of all sectors of society, as all members of society can both increase and decrease risk through their behaviour. Yet all members of society do not enjoy equal opportunity to reduce their risk and some are marginalized into situations of increased risk. Poverty, gender, age, disability and ethnicity are often the factors that exclude people from reducing their risk and thus protecting their rights. Disasters also reinforce, perpetuate, and increase inequalities.[144] The principle of equity and the legal imperative to protect human rights has led to the call by some for a rights-based approach.[145]

103. Protecting all of society from disaster risk requires addressing the risks faced by each of its members, which in turn requires all members of society to participate. The principle of inclusivity in implementing disaster risk reduction is thus closely related to that of equity. Women, poor men and women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the infirm, indigenous people and others that may be marginalized must understand the risks they face to take action to reduce them. Disaster risk reduction and development policies that do not reflect the realities and priorities of the communities that will need to implement them are generally unsuccessful.

104. To enable disaster risk reduction measures to succeed, continuous engagement of all stakeholders, including people whose livelihoods are at risk, is the best starting point of disaster risk reduction efforts.[146] Community-based disaster risk reduction has been identified as a low-cost/high-impact investment that can save lives and assets. Supporting these types of programmes ensures that the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized communities understand the practical actions required to protect themselves in a disaster and, in the long term, build resilience.[147] Taking a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction is not only fair but a prerequisite for effectiveness.

105. Stakeholders emphasized that a post-2015 framework would need to reiterate the importance of engaging all civil society including farmers, trade unions, local authorities, business and industry and the scientific community, along with government and parliament in the reduction of disaster risks.[148] Throughout the consultation, children and youth and persons with disabilities in particular identified themselves as strong independent stakeholder groups wishing to be included in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation of a post-2015 framework.[149]

106. A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction will need to include gender equality measures and women's empowerment particularly in areas of risk assessments and communication of risk, planning and programming, and the monitoring of progress through disaggregated data and gender analysis. The allocation of resources will be important for

gender analysis to be part of policy development, programmes for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and reconstruction.[150]

Developing guidelines, criteria and standards for good practices

107. Throughout the consultations there were strong calls for guidelines, standards and benchmarks to be established as part of the implementation of disaster risk reduction in a post-2015 framework. Main examples include the standardizing of risk assessments, loss accounting, land-use planning and zoning, and to establish up to date hazard informed building codes.

Simplification and practicality

108. A number of stakeholders indicated that the framework should be simpler, focus more on practical implementation and be supported by overall guidance and criteria for implementation.[151] Most stated that a post-2015 framework needed to provide more concrete hands-on guidance for defining and prioritizing measures for disaster risk reduction. At the same time others warned that the framework needed to be open and flexible and indeed not too detailed.[152]

Promotion of the framework

109. In general, the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action has been hampered by lack of knowledge of disaster risk reduction. To ensure the successful implementation of a post-2015 framework, greater focus on promotion, communication and awareness-raising will be necessary, particularly at the local level where these concepts should be owned by communities.[153] Many stakeholders urged for the language of the framework to be simple and accessible to everyone.[154]

110. Furthermore a commonly agreed terminology around disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development could be developed.[155] The concepts should also have a more positive connotation, for example "building resilience."[156] A post-2015 framework should continue to promote the concept of resilience and seek its acceptance broadly and across disciplines.

Principles of the framework

111. Some stakeholders proposed that the principles for a post-2015 framework should improve accountability, transparency and governance. Hence monitoring and reporting, access to and dissemination of risk information, coordination and partnership formation among sectors, inclusivity, enhancement of local capacities and regional collaboration were identified as principles for a post-2015 framework.[157]

Status of the framework

112. The expectation from most stakeholders is that a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction will remain a voluntary and legally nonbinding instrument. Some called for a post-2015 framework to be a binding international convention whose implementation is mandatory to ratifying parties, and ratification would become a requirement for international disaster risk reduction assistance.[158]

United Nations cooperation and coordination

113. Countries are calling for the United Nations system capacity to support countries in disaster risk reduction to be strengthened, in particular at regional level and also at country level with the important role of United Nations resident coordinators being highlighted. There is also a call for strengthening regional cooperation, and in this regard the United Nations regional commissions and regional United Nations Development Group structures are important for supporting policy development in countries. The role of multilateral banks including regional development banks and the World Bank was also highlighted.

114. Consultations within the United Nations system have led to engagements for stronger commitment and accountability by United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes to integrate disaster risk reduction into their country development programmes and to adopt risk-based approaches to their relief and recovery programmes.[159] These commitments are reflected in the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which was endorsed by the Chief Executives Board in April 2013. Countries and partners continue to call on the United Nations system to strengthen its support on disaster risk reduction implementation and for UNISDR to continue to coordinate and monitor the United Nations system support for risk reduction efforts.[160]

Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

115. Stakeholders identified the need for a strengthened role of UNISDR, and to increase its resources and visibility.[161] They indicated the need for UNISDR to be the guardian of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Particular duties include to arrange for the monitoring and reporting on the implementation, including trends and patterns in disaster risk, loss and impact; support countries in monitoring loss and risk; facilitate learning, dissemination and exchange of information and lessons; and, to support development of risk-informed policies, including for local governments. UNISDR has also been requested to support the development of cooperation mechanisms, especially at the regional level, and to mobilize resources for developing countries, by closely engaging with donors and other financing institutions and mechanisms.

116. Requests were also made concerning support for the establishment and improving effectiveness of national and local risk governance, including national platforms.[162] This includes emphasis in: enhancing coordination of multilateral organizations and strengthening coherence with disaster risk reduction objectives in their programs and policies; the development of risk management financing instruments; and the development of methodologies and standards for quality control of policies and programmes as well as for monitoring and reporting. UNISDR was also asked to continue carrying out advocacy initiatives to foster a culture of prevention, generate political momentum, and boost civil engagement.[163]

Notes

In cases where they are available, weblinks to references have been uploaded on the website for the Third United Nations World Conference at http://www.wcdrr.org

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<http://www.cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1266:10-bvi-schools-receive-safe-school-certification-from-ddm&catid=46:british-virgin-islands&Itemid=272>.

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Suggested elements for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Note by the secretariat*

Background

The General Assembly, in its resolution 66/199 of 22 December 2011, requested the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) to facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The Assembly, in its resolution 67/209 of 21 December 2012, requested UNISDR to serve as the secretariat of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and coordinate the preparatory activities in consultation with all stakeholders. By resolution 68/211 of 20 December 2013, the Assembly decided that the Third World Conference would result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action oriented outcome document.

The present document outlines suggested elements for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, drawn from the compilation report on the consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (A/CONF.224/PC(I)/5). It aims to support the intergovernmental negotiations of the preparatory process for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

* This document was submitted late due to the need for internal consultations.

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Preamble

1. The 1989 International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the 1994 Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World, and the 1999 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction form the foundation for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

2. The adoption and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters has marked a milestone in catalyzing national and local efforts to reduce disaster risk and in strengthening international cooperation through the development of regional strategies, plans and policies, and the creation of global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, as well as the adoption by the United Nations system of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

3. Biennial self-assessments by countries using the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor have proved to be an important instrument to support implementation and learning. They show that there has been gradual progress in all regions, across all the Priorities for Action of the Hyogo Framework for Action, in particular in strengthening countries' institutional, legislative and policy frameworks, early warning, disaster preparedness for response as well as in risk assessment, education, research, and in fostering public awareness and a common understanding of disaster risk. In addition to civil society and science organizations, local government officials, parliamentarians and business have been increasingly active in contributing to the core mission of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Together with progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, this has contributed to a decrease in mortality risk, particularly in the case of floods, droughts and tropical storms.

4. Countries report less progress in Priority for Action 4 on reducing the underlying risk factors and tackling the causes of risk creation. In addition, while many countries report a substantial increase in their public investments to manage disaster risk, the level continues to be low compared to the vision proposed by the Hyogo Framework for Action.

5. Disaster risk is a combined result of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. Countries have ways to influence the construction of hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities over time, the risks faced, and social and economic resilience, i.e. the capacity to absorb and recover from losses.

6. Underlying risk drivers, such as unequal economic development, poorly planned and managed urban and regional development, the decline of regulatory ecosystem services, poverty and inequality, weak governance and local capacities and climate change compound disaster risk and hence the levels of disaster loss experienced. At the same time they also condition the resilience of households, communities, businesses and the public sector and thus influence whether disaster loss cascades into a wider range of short and long run social, political and economic impacts. While disaster risk is a problem faced by all countries, risk tends to be higher and resilience lower in developing countries.

7. Existing information indicates that exposure of people and assets in both higher- and lower-income countries has increased faster than vulnerability has decreased, thus generating new risk and a steady increase in socio-economic losses. At the same time, the ongoing creation of new risk, coupled with the existing risk, requires continued efforts to reduce vulnerability. Many governments are now faced with increasing levels of contingent liability and sovereign risk. In particular this poses challenges to countries with small and vulnerable economies and constrained fiscal spaces, such as small island developing States and least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

8. This vicious cycle, which constitutes a challenge to the safety, security, wellbeing and aspiration of people, communities and countries, can be reversed with a combined

approach aimed at preventing future risk creation, reducing existing levels of risk and strengthening social and economic resilience, targeting both the public and private sectors. Recovery and reconstruction provide critical lessons and opportunities to do so. Public awareness and education are critical to an enabling environment.

9. The integration of cost and benefit of such an approach would contribute to the soundness of economic valuations, competitiveness strategies and investment decisions, including in debt ratings, risk analysis and growth forecasts. Risk-informed public and private investment in key sectors, including health, education, transport, agriculture, tourism, urban development and others are needed, as is the integration of the institutional, legislative and policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms, capacities and tools to address climate and disaster risk.

10. The Hyogo Framework for Action has provided clear guidance on the priority actions needed to address exposure and vulnerability across sectors. Its expected outcome is still valid. The work needs to continue with persistence and perseverance. However, in order to maximise ongoing efforts, a stronger and more specific focus through additional goals is necessary in order to avoid duplications and gaps. More emphasis is required on measures, including public policies, to ensure local action, coherence across institutional boundaries, sectoral policies, financial instruments and all stakeholders' roles, responsibilities and actions, as well as to strengthen accountability, and assess and monitor the impact of activities at local, national and global levels.

11. Against this background, it is proposed to build on and strengthen the Hyogo Framework for Action and previous international frameworks and strategies to guide international and national effort over the next 20 years.

A. Purpose and Outcome

12. The purpose of the Framework is to manage disaster and climate risk in development at local, national and international levels for resilient people and countries.

13. The expected Hyogo Framework for Action outcome of a "substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives, and in the social, economic and environmental assets, of communities and countries," remains valid.

B. Scope

14. In line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Yokohama Strategy, risk associated with geological, climate, weather, environmental and technological hazards fall within the scope of this framework for action. The primary responsibility to holistically manage risk rests with countries.

C. The Plan of Action

15 The effective management of disaster risk requires a Plan of Action by countries with three mutually-supportive goals:

(a) Prevent the creation of new risk by the adoption of risk-informed growth and development pathways that minimise increase in exposure and vulnerability;

(b) Reduce existing risk through the action that addresses and reduces exposure and vulnerability, including preparedness for disaster response;

(c) Strengthen resilience by social and economic measures that enable countries and people to absorb loss, minimise impact and recover.

16. These three goals complement those of the Hyogo Framework for Action and will be implemented in light of the following guiding principles and measures in sections D and E.

D. Guiding Principles

17. The principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy and the Hyogo Framework for Action retain their full relevance and are complemented by the following guiding principles in order to ensure the coherent implementation of the Plan of Action:

(a) The prevention of new risk creation and reduction of existing risk are essential components of governance;

(b) The sustainability of development depends on its ability to prevent new risk creation and the reduction of existing risk;

(c) Sound prevention and reduction of disaster risk are based on risk-informed decision-making, which requires freely available, publicly accessible science-based risk information, including on disaster losses and socio-economic impact, hazards, exposure and vulnerability;

(d) Preventing new risk creation and reducing existing risk require an all-of-society engagement and empowerment, effective equality, inclusion and non-discriminatory participation and assumption of responsibility by all stakeholders;

(e) While the causes and consequences of risk may be national, transboundary or global in scope, disaster risks have local and specific characteristics and their management requires the full engagement and empowerment of local communities, leaders, and administrators and the respect of local and indigenous knowledge;

(f) Preventing new, and reducing the existing, risk of disasters constitute an international legal duty aimed at protecting persons, their livelihoods and property while respecting their human rights;

(g) Aligned and clear responsibilities and action across private stakeholders and all public institutions, including the executive and legislative branches, at local and central level are indispensable for effective disaster risk management and to coherently monitor and review progress;

(h) In the planning and implementation of disaster risk management, the differential capacities of countries and communities need to be duly considered.

E. Implementation

18. The following measures for implementation are suggested:

(a) Systematically record and account for all disaster loss and impact, periodically estimate the probability of disaster risks to the population and to economic and fiscal assets in the context of a changing and variable climate, and convene national multi-stakeholder risk platforms and outlook fora to this aim;

(b) Ensure that national and local plans prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk and strengthen resilience with clear targets and timeframes, and that indicators and mechanisms to monitor, periodically assess and report on progress are put in place. The

formulation and implementation of such plans require the full engagement of all legislative and executive institutions, private stakeholders and clear oversight authority;

(c) Ensure the coherence of, and further develop as appropriate, national frameworks of public policies that, through defining roles and responsibilities:

(i) Guide the public sector in addressing disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructure, and in the environment;

(ii) Regulate and provide incentives for actions by households, communities, businesses and individuals, particularly at the local level.

(d) Specific public policies are needed to address post-disaster recovery, reconstruction and displacement, as well as disaster risk in informal urban development and in disaster prone rural areas, such as drylands and drought-prone regions;

(e) Review existing financial and fiscal instruments, including for development cooperation, in order to support risk-sensitive public and private investments;

(f) Stimulate the development, together with the private sector and professional associations, of disaster risk management quality standards and mechanisms for compliance, including certification, in specific sectors, and the use of existing relevant standards, such as International Health Regulations;

(g) Encourage the integration of voluntary commitments from all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector into national and local plans for disaster risk management.

F. Public awareness and education

19. Public awareness, education at all levels, and professional education and training on the inter-dependence of disasters with development, climate change and variability, disaster risk vulnerability, and exposure are the foundations of a culture of prevention and the implementation of this framework.

20. Specific measures are required to:

(a) Guide educational institutions to integrate disaster risk management into school, university and professional development curricula, and into informal education programmes;

(b) Strengthen public awareness on disaster risk at national and local levels in close collaboration with media, professional associations and civil society;

(c) Further promote the improvement of early warning systems and availability of climate information to ensure that people and communities know how to act on the basis of the warnings;

(d) Stimulate public and institutional debate and scrutiny, including by parliamentarians and other elected officials, on the prevention and reduction of disaster risk based, *inter alia*, on progress reports of local, national and international plans.

G. International Cooperation, Monitoring, Reporting and Review

21. Monitoring is essential to assess progress and adopt the necessary corrective measures. The current Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor will need to be enhanced in order to more effectively measure progress.

22. Global targets and outcome indicators are proposed for the implementation of this framework and measurement of progress. Moreover, families of output indicators are proposed with a view to support countries in the development and monitoring of their national and local plans (see annex).

23. It is proposed that progress on the Plan of Action will be periodically reviewed through the High Level Political Forum in order to assess and adjust implementation in the context of the review of progress on post-2015 sustainable development commitments.

24. Voluntary peer reviews between groups of countries may represent a very useful mechanism to support national reviews of progress, mutual learning, exchange of best practices and cooperation.

25. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms and *fora* for disaster risk reduction will remain as important multi-stakeholder mechanisms to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues. National platforms will play a critical role in fostering the development and monitoring of national and local plans.

26. The Scientific and Technical Committee, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, will be revitalized and transformed into an international science advisory mechanism to strengthen the evidence base in support of the implementation and monitoring of this framework; promote scientific research into risk patterns and trends and the causes and effects of disaster risk in society; to promote and support the availability and application of science to decision-making; and to use post-disaster reviews as opportunities to learn and enhance public policy.

27. Intergovernmental organizations of global and regional nature, including international financial institutions and the United Nations system, through its United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement are called upon to support countries and other stakeholders in the implementation of this framework, including the development of relevant sector policies and standards, monitoring mechanisms and the strengthening of capacities.

28. International cooperation needs to give priority to strengthen the capacities to manage risks in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, through relevant means.

29. The secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in particular is requested to support the implementation of this framework through: enhancing the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor and preparing periodic reports on progress in the implementation; generating evidence-based guidance; supporting countries, including through the national platforms or their equivalent, in monitoring trends and patterns in disaster risk, disaster loss and impacts; further strengthening and convening the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and supporting the organization of regional platforms and *fora* for disaster risk reduction; reinforcing a culture of prevention through advocacy initiatives and dissemination of risk information, policies and practices; coordinating the revision of the 2009 Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction; facilitating the revitalization and transformation of, and providing support to, the Scientific and Technical Committee; and leading the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

H. Transition phase

30. The activities initiated under the Hyogo Framework for Action Strategic Priorities will continue, in order to maintain the positive momentum and because significant systemic change and impact will require the persistence and perseverance of all stakeholders over the next 20 years.

31. In order to capture significant progress, the reporting cycle against the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor is proposed to change from two to four years, the next cycle being 2015-2018. The existing system of indicators will be expanded to facilitate measurement of progress of the expected outcome and goals, and tailoring, at national level.

32. Existing regional strategies, plans and programmes may be adjusted, taking into account this new framework.

Annex

PART A

Global targets and indicators

Three **Global Targets** are proposed for the first ten years:

(a) Reduce disaster mortality by half by 2025 (or by a given percentage in a given period of time);
(b) Reduce disaster economic loss by a given percentage by 2025;
(c) Reduce disaster damage to housing, educational and health facilities by a given percentage by 2025.

Rationale

The **Global Targets** are expressed in terms of levels of reduced disaster loss and impact. Disaster *losses* refer to the human, physical and economic losses associated with different hazards and are an indicator of realized risk. They can result in short- to long-term social and economic *impacts*, depending on the resilience of households, communities, businesses and nations. Reducing disaster loss is a proxy for achieving sustainability and growth. Reducing disaster impacts is a proxy for achieving resilience and inclusiveness.

The **Global Targets** can be used by all countries: for example, the halving of disaster mortality in a small island developing State from an annual average of 20 to 10 would be equivalent to halving mortality in Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS countries) from an annual average of 2,000 to 1,000, even though absolute mortality is of a different order of magnitude.

Outcome Indicators on disaster loss and impact, which can be developed from national and global disaster loss databases, would measure achievement of the **Global Targets**. While not all countries systematically record their disaster losses, the adoption of the **Global Targets** as part of the framework will provide a powerful incentive to do so.

PART B

Indicators to support the formulation and monitoring of national plans

In order to measure achievement of the three Goals of the framework, countries will set nationally appropriate targets, the achievement of which would be monitored through families of **Output Indicators.**

GOALS	SUGGESTED FAMILIES OF INDICATORS
Creation of new risk prevented	The first family would measure to what extent underlying drivers of risk and resilience are effectively addressed or not, particularly through public policies to prevent risk generation. This family would contain six groups of indicators on uneven economic development, poverty and inequality, environmental degradation, badly planned and managed urban development, climate change and weak governance.
Existing risk reduced	The second indicator family would measure the current levels of disaster risk in the country with respect to key economic metrics, such as investment, debt and fiscal capacity. This indicator family would provide an objective basis for assessing the effectiveness of public policies in risk reduction. At the same time, it would also enable governments to assess their risk appetite and optimize their investments in disaster risk management in relation to their fiscal capacities.
Resilience strengthened	The third indicator family would measure resilience. This family would contain three groups of indicators measuring the fiscal resilience of the state, the social resilience of households and communities and business resilience. This indicator family would provide information on the effectiveness of public policies to strengthen resilience and on whether countries, businesses and communities can absorb and recover from disaster losses in a way that minimizes the short and long run negative social and economic impacts.

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Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 14-15 July 2014
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Outcome of Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria

Note by the secretariat*

A. Declaration from the Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/209 of December 2012, the Assembly, in looking forward to regional platforms scheduled in 2014, stressed the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process for the Third World Conference.

2. The Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held from 13 to 16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria. A declaration was produced by the Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction that was held within the framework of the Fifth Africa Regional Platform Outcomes, which read:

"Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria

"Declaration from the Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction

"Preamble

"The Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction was held within the framework of the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from 13

* This document was submitted late due to the need for internal consultations.

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to 16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria. The Ministerial meeting was held at a time when the world was expressing its deep solidarity with the families of the abducted schoolgirls and the people of Nigeria and calling for the abducted schoolgirls to be brought back to their families. This meeting joined the global call for solidarity and compassion with the people of Nigeria.

"The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and convened by the African Union Commission with support from the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The host organisations recognise the kind support provided by partner organisations .

"Over 900 participants from African governments, Regional Economic Communities, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, came together with mayors and local governments, parliamentarians, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media actively deliberated on Africa's contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

"Declaration

"We the African Ministers and Heads of Delegations, present at the Ministerial Meeting 16 May 2014:

"I. Take note of the consultations on Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction conducted at national, sub-regional and continental level, outcomes of the 4th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (13-15 February 2013, Arusha, Tanzania), Africa Position presented by the African Union at the 4th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (19 – 23 May 2013, Geneva, Switzerland), Consultative Meeting on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (25 – 26 November 2013, Nairobi, Kenya) and consequent summary statement.

"II. Further take note of the Summary Statement of the Africa Working Group (Extended) meeting (11-12 March 2014, Abuja, Nigeria) that includes recommendations for Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – as the basis for discussion at the 5th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria.

"III. Recall global and regional frameworks on disaster risk reduction, particularly the Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (2004) and Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and acknowledge the achievements and gaps therein.

"IV. Further recall the Declaration of the 2nd African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April 2010 that adopted the Extended Programme of Action (2006 – 2015) and stress the need for continuation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action as valid frameworks for disaster risk reduction with the need to reinforce their implementation.

"V. Take cognizance of the report of the 5th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 15 – 18 October 2013 that refers to disaster risk reduction in context of sustainable development.

"VI. Acknowledge the continued efforts of African countries, especially the contribution of Regional Economic Communities, local governments, community practitioners and civil society, on disaster risk reduction and its integration with climate change adaptation for sustainable development and enhanced resilience.

"VII. Further acknowledge ongoing efforts at regional and national levels to enhance resilience of nations and communities against disasters, including the Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative in the IGAD region and Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) in the Sahel and west Africa region and applaud the collaboration between IGAD and Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) as an exemplary South-South Cooperation.

"VIII. Appreciate the role of regional platforms on disaster risk reduction as an effective coordination forum that brings governments, inter-governmental organisations and stakeholders together and call for its continuity on a regular basis.

"IX. Express deep concern at the magnitude and intensity of disasters, aggravated by terrorism and armed conflicts, and their increasing impact in recent years in Africa, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic, environmental and humanitarian consequences for vulnerable societies which hamper the achievement of sustainable development.

"X. Advocate for the inclusion of additional elements to take into account emerging risks and their prevention through anticipatory risk management for risk-sensitive development.

"XI. Recognise disaster risk reduction as an effective means to achieve resilience through prevention, mitigation and preparedness to enable nations and communities absorb loss and damage, minimise impacts and bounce forward.

"*Hereby:*

"1. Adopt the Summary Statement on Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Stakeholder Voluntary Commitments.

"2. Express commitment of our governments to the African position on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

"3. Urge the African Union Commission to submit this Declaration to the African Union Summit for endorsement.

"4. Further express commitment to promoting a coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach to the three international agreements in 2015 – the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the sustainable development goals and the climate change agreements.

"5. Further urge the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, as the Secretariat of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14 – 18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan), to ensure incorporation of Africa's contribution into the global Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, following the formal process adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, through Resolution A/RES/68/211 on 20 December 2013.

"6. Call upon national and local governments and community practitioners, parliamentarians and regional economic communities, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Declaration and constituent elements.

"7. Further call upon UNISDR to continue providing its institutional support for regional coordination and monitoring of disaster risk reduction implementation under the leadership of the African Union Commission and in cooperation with Regional Economic Communities.

"8. Encourage development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media to enhance and strengthen their active and joint collaboration with governments, parliamentarians and Regional Economic Communities for implementation of the recommendations.

"Done on this 16th day of May 2014 at Abuja, Nigeria

"[Translated in French wherein English text is the original version]"

B. Summary statement: Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

3. Also at the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, a summary statement on Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction was produced, which read:

"*Summary statement: Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction*

"[Translated in French wherein English text is the original version]

"Over 900 participants from 44 countries and partners gathered in Abuja, Nigeria, 13-16 May 2014 for the 5th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Stakeholders from governments, Regional Economic Communities, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, came together with mayors and local governments, parliamentarians, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media to review the progress of disaster risk reduction in Africa and consolidate Africa's Contribution to a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

"The Platform was convened by the African Union Commission and hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with support from Economic Community for West African States Commission and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other partners . The recommendations are summarised below:

"*A. Regional Risk Factors and Institutional Frameworks*

"Most disasters in Africa are hydro-meteorological. Drought, in particular, is recognized as a regional priority, along with chronic vulnerabilities and food insecurity. The impact of small-scale- recurrent hazards continue to have a significant impact on sustainable development and call for greater attention in national and regional efforts to reduce disaster risk. Recognizing regional variability in hazard profiles, the particular vulnerabilities of island states need to be reflected in regional strategies and action. Rapid urbanization, vulnerable infrastructure, land and environmental degradation and, extreme poverty, food insecurity and disease continue to drive risk and undermine resilience.

Violent conflict is closely associated with disaster risk and related efforts to prevent conflict need to be considered as part of overall efforts to build resilience to disasters.

"1. Policy and appropriate legislation, including regulatory frameworks, have played a significant role in addressing disaster risks in many African countries; these processes should be enhanced, including through parliamentary forums at regional and national levels, and backed by strengthened institutional capacity to enforce legislation.

"2. The inclusion of disaster risk reduction into municipal and decentralized policies will further enable the reduction of risk. Decentralisation should be complemented by increased accountability and transparency in implementing disaster risk reduction through allocation of responsibilities and resources at all administrative levels.

"3. Public participation in policy development will better ensure that particular vulnerabilities of children, youth, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities, among others, are addressed and will help to ensure that the leadership and capacities of these groups are fully enlisted in efforts to build resilience.

"4. Multi-sector and multi-hazard programme investment frameworks, with clear budget will help in translating policies into actionable programmes, particularly when attention is given to capacity building and capacity retention at all levels - policy-makers to community practitioners.

"5. Strengthened national and local platforms can enhance risk governance and improve policy, planning and financing. Efforts to accelerate inclusivity in these platforms, through institutionally linking organised stakeholder forums (e.g. parliamentarian caucuses, community practitioners' platforms, youth and women networks), can facilitate learning, coordinated action and the impact of national and local platforms.

"6. Efforts to engage Heads of States and governments through the African Union provide further means of consolidating political leadership at the highest level for coordination of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and for ensuring the establishment and strengthening of national and local platforms.

"7. Disasters are not constrained by administrative boundaries and require trans-boundary policies and programmes. Population movements induced by disasters (fast- and slow-onset) and long-term violent conflicts call for cross-border cooperation. The development and enhancement of sub-regional climate information and multi-hazard early warning systems can inform, and thereby improve, prevention, preparedness and early action and response.

"8. Integrated and coordinated approaches to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and related aspects of conflict prevention can reduce the fragmentation of resources and improve the impact of investments.

"9. Systematic support to the expansion and resourcing of existing networks of academic and training institutions can help to build and strengthen human capacity, for example, through consortia and partnerships.

"10. The establishment of regional mechanisms that enable more active engagement of a wider range of science partners (including health and agriculture) can support broader efforts to establish an international science advisory panel for disaster risk reduction and to bring scientific, local and indigenous knowledge within a common framework of understanding.

"11. Mainstream gender into all disaster risk reduction plans, prevention and preparedness programmes, monitoring and reporting mechanisms should be enhanced for the purpose of building resilience.

"12. The role of women, especially organised groups of slum-dwellers and rural women, should be recognised through inviting their involvement in decision-making, policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation towards the goal of gender equity and women's empowerment.

"13. Africa has a significantly large and vibrant young population. Given this, and its high socio-economic vulnerabilities to the impacts of disasters, children and youth must be meaningfully involved in future disaster risk reduction planning and implementation. Failure to do so can risk the sustainability of current risk reduction investments. Youth should be empowered with specific skills that will enable them to better apply their creativity and innovation in reducing disaster risk.

"14. Locally elected representatives provide a direct and immediate link to local communities and are on the front line of efforts to reduce disaster risks. Efforts to engage locally elected officials in national planning for disaster risk reduction need to be accelerated.

"15. Media should be recognized as an integral part of disaster risk reduction processes and should assume responsibility for fair and accurate reporting on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

"16. Public reporting mechanisms should be put in place for sub-national, urban, and community level disaster risk reduction programmes (e.g. parliamentary reporting, open-information websites and community meetings). These may be linked to national monitoring and reporting mechanisms and further supported through mobilizing media networks. Open crowd-sourcing technologies and improved monitoring of risks at community level promise additional support to accountability. Similarly, funding mechanisms should be designed so as to facilitate transparency and accountability.

"17. Efforts to address the relationship between poverty and corruption should be seen as a valuable asset in efforts to promote resilience to disasters.

"*B. Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*

"The year 2015 will be marked by three landmark agreements – a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (March 2015), sustainable development goals (September 2015) and climate change agreements through the UNFCCC (December 2015). Efforts to ensure that these international agreements are coherent and mutually reinforcing will contribute to multiple benefits at the national and local levels. The combined impact of climate variability and climate change gives new impetus to efforts to address the underlying causes of risk (HFA Priority for Action 4) and the commitments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions create new opportunities for investing in resilience.

"18. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction integration form the building blocks for current and future risk prevention, leading to resilience.

"19. Coordination needs to be increased at the institutional level between the disaster risk reduction and climate change communities, including through developing synergies between relevant frameworks and conventions at global level. Common platforms for resilience have been proposed as a practical next step. The post-2015 development framework provides an important vehicle for this integration because this approach needs to be introduced into the delivery of basic social services including education, health and water (among others).

"20. Roles and responsibilities (for instance, of national agencies for disaster management, monitoring hazards and issuing warnings) need to be clarified through policies, legislation, and institutional coordination mechanisms. More systematic linkages

should be established between technical agencies (such as meteorological, hydrological and climate services) and disaster risk management agencies. Climate information and early warning should be tailored to and accessible by different sectors and community-level actors. Related communications systems and channels should be strengthened with the goal of using information for early action.

"21. Availability and access to information on risks, losses and damages associated with climate-related hazards and disasters should be enhanced for national, local and sector development planning. This requires that adequate information is enhanced, available and communicated in local languages and in formats that take the special needs of persons with disabilities into account.

"22. Ecosystem based approaches and related efforts to reverse environment and land degradation should be reinforced as a means to manage disaster risks and deliver multiple socio-economic benefits. These call for long term approaches to sustain healthy ecosystems. River basin organizations should be recognized as playing a key role and efforts should be made to leverage existing AU mechanisms in this regard. Monitoring environmental compliance and the enforcement of multi-lateral environmental agreements in government plans support these efforts.

"23. Recognizing the impact of climate change on urban areas, enhanced efforts to address urban risks is a priority for Africa. Knowledge in this area should be expanded as a means of catalysing effective action, in partnership with urban communities. Disaster-sensitive physical planning (including through the use of tools such as resilience profiling), enforcement of building codes and investments in resilient urban infrastructure can be applied to prevent the accumulation of further risks. Technical capacities of city managers and practitioners can be enhanced through, city-to-city exchanges, civil society, technical centres and institutes, academia and the engagement of national expertise.

"24. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation should be integrated in education systems, including curricula (at all levels) and comprehensive school safety frameworks to ensure uninterrupted safe education.

"25. Community education and awareness, including through informal education, on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation will be improved through coordinating the efforts of government authorities, civil society and the general public. Media embraces a broad range of communication tools and represents an underutilized resource that could support new approaches to building resilience in Africa.

"26. Greater attention should be given to Higher Education Institutions which constitute key resources for strengthening disaster risk-related science, technology and increasingly play crucial roles in advancing relevant risk knowledge, research and skilled capacity in the management of current and future risks.

"27. Health is an imperative for disaster risk reduction and community resilience. Health status and targets should be among indicators for monitoring and reporting on disaster risk reduction achievements.

"28. Ensure that gains from recovery are translated into resilience through developing financial protection strategies for governments to respond quickly after disasters and developing resilient recovery plans that address issues such as disaster waste management and investments in resilient infrastructure, among others.

"29. A people-centred approach to disaster risk reduction is essential for building resilience. Institutionalize linkages between community-based disaster risk reduction, national and sub-national policies and action.

"*C. Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction*

"Rapid economic growth in Africa provides opportunities for increasing investment in disaster risk reduction but also poses challenges.

"30. Comprehensive risk profiles create an enabling investment environment for disaster risk reduction and can encourage the wider use of comprehensive risk assessments to inform public and private sector investment decisions and to target disaster risk reduction funding and financing.

"31. There is a need for strengthening technical capacities of institutions responsible for monitoring and analysing hazard, exposure, and vulnerability components of risk. National and regional policies and strategies include risk assessments that facilitate the targeting of interventions to support, for instance, children's protection and the vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities. Funding mechanisms need to be aligned to support the development of disaster and climate-related information.

"32. New forums and platforms can be established by the private sector to strengthen coordination and galvanize disaster risk reduction actions, these could recognize the role that small and medium enterprises play in prevention efforts. Public policies based on sound business models can further encourage private sector investment in disaster risk reduction.

"33. Public-Private Partnerships for disaster risk reduction should be enhanced to promote resilient investments, increase job opportunities at the community level, enhance accountability for private sector and ensure the relevance of private sector investment to benefit vulnerable communities while preventing future risks.

"34. Financial commitment and investment strategies should be developed and national governments should allocate adequate resources for scalable and flexible adaptive basic social services and social protection systems, including safety nets, and ensure funding opportunities are available to communities for food security and resilience building.

"35. Regional initiatives, such as the African Risk Capacity, a specialized entity of the AU, present important opportunities to protect food security of vulnerable populations.

"*D. Duration of Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*

"The post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction should have duration similar to that of the Hyogo Framework for Action –at least ten years in order to ensure appropriate results-based monitoring mechanisms for the new framework.

"*E. Enhancing Commitments*

"Delegates recommended making the post-2015 framework more action oriented, taking into consideration the priority areas of HFA, and generating commitments from all actors and stakeholders by undertaking the following:

"36. Implement disaster risk reduction in line with rights-based approaches to generate a high level of institutional accountability.

"37. Strengthening awareness and knowledge at all levels for all stakeholders is a key to generating the right commitment for implementation. This should include a focus on capacity building at all levels to foster communities of disaster risk reduction practitioners.

"38. Allocating a proportion of public budgets for disaster risk reduction, with greater investment in disaster mitigation, preparedness and response, informed by economic

analyses and risk assessments. These should be supported by financial commitment strategies and technical guidelines to integrate risk reduction into public investment.

"39. Institutionalize engagement and involvement with civil society, recognizing the various strengths of national, international and community-led organizations and the range of capacities these organizations offer in terms of policy and advocacy, action research, capacity building, networking and mobilizing commitment, among others.

"40. Launch advocacy efforts to mark the shift from 'awareness' to 'how-to-do-it' (e.g. implementation of 10 essentials for making cities resilient) including through support of specialized dedicated technical assistance provided by national governments and partners.

"41. Establish clear accountability mechanisms with monitoring and reporting of progress to help generate commitment for implementation. Annual reporting could help to overcome the delays encountered in implementing the HFA. Reporting mechanisms for government investments in disaster risk reduction should be strengthened, including capacities to monitor data and information on hazards and sectorial loss and damage.

"42. The United Nations System should build upon the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience as an effective tool for coordination. UNISDR should continue providing support to the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities for strengthened policy advocacy, coordination and more effective monitoring and evaluation.

"End."

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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Outcome of Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, 27 to 29 May 2014, Guayaquil, Ecuador

Note by the secretariat*

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/209 of December 2012, the Assembly, in looking forward to regional platforms scheduled in 2014, stressed the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process for the Third World Conference.

2. The Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas was held from 27 to 29 May 2014 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, producing a meeting statement which read:

"Communiqué of Guayaquil, Ecuador

"IV Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

"Guayaquil, 29 May, 2014

"1. We, participants at the Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas,[1] meeting in Guayaquil, Ecuador from 27 to 29 May 2014, thank the people and Government of the Republic of Ecuador, particularly the Risk Management Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, for the

* This document was submitted late due to the need to include as much information from consultations as possible.

1 Representatives of the region's States and territories, parliamentarians, local and subnational authorities, regional and sub-regional coordination and cooperation agencies, international organizations, international and bilateral financial institutions, civil society organizations and the media.

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hospitality and support provided for the successful carrying out of this Fourth Session of the Regional Platform:

"2. Acknowledge the substantial contributions of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 to the formulation of strategies and policies for disaster risk management.[2] In order progress towards eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and achieving sustainable and inclusive development, it is necessary to assess progress and challenges in implementing disaster risk management policies at all territorial and sectoral levels and suggest the necessary adjustments of the post-2015 Framework for Action.

"3. Highlight that the economic loss and damage resulting from disasters and their impact on development continue to increase, mainly from disasters associated with the occurrence of low-intensity recurrent hydro-meteorological events. Moreover, this situation tends to be aggravated by disorderly population growth and current patterns of development, in particular accelerated urbanization which, when accompanied by weak structures of governance, leads to higher levels of exposure and a greater level of vulnerability in general of nations and communities.

"4. Emphasize the great opportunity to influence, from the participants' respective realms of action, the negotiations on the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as the new strategic agenda arising from the World Humanitarian Summit.

"5. Highlight the leadership of national governments and the significant progress in the transformation of the legal and institutional frameworks and practices, supported by parliamentarians, with the aim of consolidating a shift away from response-oriented approaches towards development-oriented approaches, both at the territorial and sectoral level, for effective risk reduction such as the PCGIR[3] in Central America, the CDM[4] Strategy 2014-2024 in the Caribbean, as well as the definition of risk management as a State policy in countries such as Ecuador; new comprehensive risk management laws such as in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru; and the many efforts at the local and community level.

"6. Recognize the critical role of local governments in disaster risk reduction and strategic management of sustainable development, as frontline governments.

"7. Acknowledge the contributions of the "Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready" Global Campaign and the achievements obtained in local risk management and urban resilience.

"8. Note that 89% of the countries in the Americas are implementing national initiatives on safe hospitals and improving the resilience of new and existing health care services in order to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a disaster.

"9. Affirm that protecting essential services, particularly schools and hospitals, is a social priority, a collective and political responsibility and is crucial for achieving resilient communities.

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2 According to the "Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013" (UNISDR, GAR 2013), "disaster risk reduction" refers to the goal set for policies to reduce risk while "disaster risk management" refers to the actions for achieving this goal.

3 Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR).

4 Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy CDM 2014-2024.

"10. Reiterate the importance of community participation in disaster risk reduction and civic responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the States and Territories, to take necessary action in this regard in accordance with their respective regulatory framework.

"11. Recognize the work and contributions of community-based civil society organizations and networks in comprehensively building resilient communities, including women's, indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations, as demonstrated through significant participation in the different venues of decision-making at the local, national, regional and global level.

"12. Express our commitment to contribute to the process of review and refinement of the HFA that will result in the post-2015 International Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, recognizing that management capacities and the availability of resources to advance towards the risk reduction goals vary considerably across the Americas. This framework should particular special attention on the unique situation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in terms of exposure and vulnerability.

"13. Recognize the importance of regional cooperation and integration mechanisms such as CARICOM, SICA, UNASUR, AEC, CELAC and OAS as well as on intergovernmental agreements and Action Plans aimed at strengthening policies adopting strategic risk management agendas.

"14. Support the commitments presented before the Regional Platform by representatives of local governments, as well as the voluntary commitments of civil society organizations, the private sector and children, youth and adolescents.

"15. Recognize the need to improve coordination in international disaster response, including the process established by the international humanitarian assistance mechanism (MIAH), and further strengthen the preparedness, response and recovery capacity at all community, local, national and regional levels.

"16. Value the contributions of the scientific and academic community in generating knowledge and technological development for risk management decision-making.

"*Recommendations for the post-2015 international framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2)*

"17. Actively work towards achieving coherence among the new Agendas surrounding Development, Risk Management, Climate Change, Humanitarian Action and the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. Such coherence is expressed in the definition of common indicators and objectives as well as in the efficient use of resources to promote greater impact within nations and communities.

"18. Periodically review the progress towards comprehensive development, enabling the evaluation of coherence and convergence in the application through, among other things, the development of indicators of resilience and new agreed upon methodologies for monitoring and follow-up, with particular emphasis on the priorities of communities and countries.

"19. Improve disaster risk management governance among the various sectors and levels of government, ensuring the responsible participation of the different actors at the local and national levels through, as relevant, decentralization with allocated budgets, clear subsidiary systems, regulations, policies, legislation and sectorial action plans and accountability mechanisms.

"20. Incorporate a focus on the rights of all social sectors, in particular the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and the young as a crosscutting foundation of sustainable development and the implementation of public policies; guaranteeing their inclusive participation in the mechanisms for protection and equitable access to health services, education, dignified labour and social security. Such a focus must value ancestral knowledge and traditions of indigenous peoples and people of African descent throughout the region to prepare, deal with and overcome disasters.

"21. Promote a cross-cutting focus on gender in the development of local and national public policies on disaster risk reduction guaranteeing that gender considerations are mainstreamed within institutions and recognizing the active participation and leadership of women in strategic risk management.

"22. Place community participation at the center of risk management in order to enhance greater comprehension and understanding of risks, access to information, decision-making, strengthened capacities and organization, the protection of lives, livelihoods and food security.

"23. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the different actors among the various levels of government and society, respecting autonomy and the established mechanisms surrounding coordination and cooperation.

"24. Explicitly incorporate local governments within the post-2015 Framework for Action (HFA2) as relevant actors within risk management and sustainable development, with specific competencies and mindful of the diversity of situations as per institutions and resources of the local governments throughout the Americas.

"25. Create mechanisms and tools that allow local governments to access various types of resources as well as scientific, technical and financial cooperation in a decentralized way.

"26. Nurture alliances, networks, conglomerations of communities and city alliances as well as the participation of citizens, communities and civil society in order to achieve true good governance surrounding urban risk and resilience and the local, national, regional and international levels.

"27. Promote urban and rural land-use planning as a key element for disaster risk reduction: incorporating a corrective and prospective vision of risk within the planning policies and regulatory frameworks surrounding the mandate and daily responsibilities of all levels of government. It is essential to strengthen methodologies that incorporate such visions within relevant regulatory instruments, planning codes and standards, as well as to achieve greater access and citizen participation and interaction among local authorities and the private sector.

"28. Establish the development and implementation of safe school and hospital policies and programmes as a priority for action at the local, national and regional levels in order to protect and guarantee access to education and health services before, during and after disaster situations, as a contribution towards the achievement of the millennium development goals.

"29. Protect and promote the social, physical and mental wellbeing of people as a fundamental asset of communities and nations in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development and disaster risk management.

"30. Stimulate policies surrounding fiscal vulnerability reduction in order to guarantee sustainability: including new regulations that contemplate reducing the vulnerability of new projects, cost-benefit analysis manuals and mechanisms for disaster risk reduction budget tracking; as well as the development of complementary instruments

for risk transfer and retention. Similarly, motivate coordinated work among those overseeing the planning and implementation of projects.

"31. Highlight that the responsibility of the private sector in building sustainable development should be registered within the mainstreamed efforts of all actors involved in risk management. Aspects such as business continuity and protecting employees from labour risks, while important, should also be integrated within a broader and more strategic vision of risk reduction generated by their activities within their social and territorial surroundings.

"32. Define the roles, responsibilities, resources and inter-institutional coordination for recovery. States are encouraged to develop anticipatory planning processes surrounding recovery, including institutional budgets that ensure the avoidance of reconstructing risk and generating new risks.

"33. Promote the responsible participation of media in awareness-raising processes, education and public information in order to support risk management policies and incentives for resilience.

"34. Integrate knowledge and information for formulating evidence-based risk management policies. To do so, access to interdisciplinary scientific inputs must be ensured for all actors, with consideration given to local identity as well as conditions regarding culture, gender and special needs. The establishing of a scientific academic mechanism is desired, with the support of governments, in order to advise country authorities and strengthening exchange networks.

"35. Design and articulate educational proposals in schools and universities that emphasize civic values and responsibility.

"36. Foster horizontal and triangular cooperation to favour the exchange of good practices and stimulate strengthening local, national and regional capacities that take into consideration trans-boundary elements and shared resources in terms of ecosystems, watershed management, cultural aspects, among others.

"37. Ensure proper disaster preparedness, readiness and response that include improved coordination capacities at all levels, including legal aspects, resource mobilization and management of technological information systems, as well as proper planning of early recovery to ensure the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, implements and seeds.

"38. Promote integration and coherence among the disaster risk reduction agendas of the United Nations System. To this end, we call upon the United Nations to strengthen its Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in order to fulfil its mandate, including risk modelling, disaster loss databases, review of regional strategies, as well as to lead the review of terminology and support monitoring the implementation of the post-2015 framework."

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Outcome of Sixth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, 2 to 4 June 2014, Suva, Fiji

Note by the secretariat*

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/209 of December 2012, the Assembly, in looking forward to regional platforms scheduled in 2014, stressed the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process for the Third World Conference.

2. The Sixth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management was held from 2 to 4 June 2014 in Suva, Fiji, producing a meeting statement which read:

"Sixth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

"The Way Forward: Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific

"2-4 June 2014, Suva, Fiji

"Meeting statement

"*We*, the representatives of Pacific Island Countries and Territories[1], Timor Leste, civil society organisations, regional organisations and development partners attending the Sixth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management in Suva, 2-4 June 2014;

"*Mindful* of the challenge of strengthening the climate and disaster resilience of the Pacific islands region in the context of sustainable development;

* This document was submitted late due to the need to include as much information from consultations as possible.

[1] Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

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"*Commit* to an ongoing inclusive and collaborative effort involving all stakeholders and ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable groups are given paramount consideration;

"*In* relation to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction:

"1. *Endorse* the evolving concept of disaster risk management referred to as part of the United Nations Special Representative for the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction "Proposed Elements for Consideration in a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" and the need to strengthen action to prevent risk accumulation and build resilience.

"2. *Recognise* that preventing and reducing disaster risk require whole-of-society institutions' engagement and leadership.

"3. *Acknowledge* the contributions of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) in assisting the Pacific region to build stronger and more resilient communities to disasters.

"4. *Encourage* a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to link where appropriate with the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the Climate Change Agreements to strengthen coherence and mutual reinforcement of international mechanisms.

"5. *Encourage* the reporting on progress of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to be linked with the new Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific to reduce the reporting burden on Pacific Island Countries and Territories, being mindful of national reporting obligations.

"6. *Acknowledge* the need for a system for monitoring and supporting the implementation of a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific region and assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories to report progress on the implementation of the Framework.

"7. *Request* the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to convene regional collaborations to enhance the monitoring and review mechanism of disaster risk reduction, including indicators, as well as a process for review of the terminology and to explore with Pacific countries and regional organisations the best modalities for regional cooperation, coordination with development partners, to implement and periodically review the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

"8. *Recognise* that the private sector, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, persons with disabilities, women and men, the elderly, children, youth, migrants and volunteers are all agents for change and their unique skills, knowledge and experience must be incorporated into disaster risk management and climate change adaptation planning and action to ensure holistic and sustainable approach to reducing risk and more effective response to hazards in the Pacific.

"9. *Urge* Pacific partners to share case studies and experiences of the Pacific in the integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Third Small Island Development States Conference in Samoa, and the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and other relevant fora.

"10. *Encourage* the observation of human rights in disaster risk management.

"11. *Urge* the full and meaningful involvement of youth, women and persons with disabilities in gender balanced delegations to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and in the development and implementation of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific at the global, regional and national levels.

"12. *Recognise* disaster risk reduction as an effective means to achieve resilience through prevention, mitigation and preparedness to enable nations and communities and absorb damage and loss, minimise impacts and bounce forward and build back better to link disaster risk management with sustainable development.

"*In* relation to the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific:

"13. *Note* and support the three goals of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific to be:

"Goal 1: Strengthened Risk Management, including Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction;

"Goal 2: Low Carbon Development;

"Goal 3: Strengthened Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

"14. *Note* that further consideration is required for the proposed monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning arrangements including an assessment of indicative costs required, and the governance and institutional arrangements that will underpin implementation of the Strategy and note that the results matrix requires completion.

"15. *Recommend* that, as a priority, further detail be included in the draft Strategy on the role of a Pacific Resilience Partnership to oversee the implementation of the Strategy working in close association with existing partnership mechanisms.

"16. *Agree* that the Strategy will be a source of strategic guidance for action related to climate and disaster resilient development in the Pacific at the regional national, sub-national and community level.

"17. *Note* that the Chair's Summary of this meeting will reflect the detailed feedback from participants on the Strategy content, which will be incorporated into the Strategy.

"18. *Recommend* the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific be tabled for consideration and endorsement by the governing councils of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (September 2014) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (November 2014) and eventual approval by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2015.

"19. *Recommend* that national finance and planning institutions and relevant agencies play a central role in strategic, whole of country approaches for climate and disaster resilient development and medium to longer term recovery from disasters.

"20. *Advance* the role of national finance and planning agencies in identifying, mobilising and coordinating resources for climate and disaster resilient development.

"*In* relation to the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

"21. *Appreciate* the opportunity provided to engage in the consultation process toward a new Framework for Pacific Regionalism, a recasting of the Pacific Plan.

"22. *Reaffirm* the importance of the global discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 2014) and identifying linkages between their processes and outcomes.

"23. *Acknowledge* the inclusion of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change related targets in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals.

"24. *Emphasize* that the Pacific's position on Post-2015 Development Agenda be based on the notion of resilient development, informed by discussions on the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific and builds upon the experiences and lessons learnt to date.

"25. *Identify* the following as key Pacific regional imperatives for effective disaster risk management and climate change adaptation:

"(a) The vital importance of high level political support for climate and disaster resilient development backed by specific budget allocations and investments;

"(b) Bridge the gap between climate change adaptation and disaster risk management policy and practice at community, national and regional level;

"(c) Close coordination of disaster risk management and climate change funding;

"(d) Institutional alignment of responsibilities and policy coherence across sectors to effectively manage disaster risk;

"(e) Establish, maintain and promote the collection and use of risk information and knowledge including disaster loss databases to support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation supported by dedicated resources, requisite capacities and appropriate information and communication technologies to make data accessible to the public and in user-friendly format to inform and reduce risk to communities, businesses and development activities;

"(f) Develop incentives and partnerships for the private sector to increase investment in disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and low carbon development to boost resilience and the sustainability of local economies;

"(g) Further investment in monitoring systems and scientific research and their practical applications in informing decision-making in disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and low carbon development.

"Adopted on 4 June 2014, Suva, Fiji"